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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT



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MONEY MATTERS

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EVERY VOTE WILL COUNT IN ELECTION

THE election race began yesterday with all eyes on Medway - set to be one of the UK's hardest fought areas.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown called the General Election yesterday morning before heading straight for Medway, an area the Labour party are desperate to hold on to.

Your vote really will count this year as two of our three MPs face losing their seats with a swing of just a few hundred votes.

In 2005, the narrowest victory in Medway's three marginal constituencies saw Bob Marshall-Andrews hold

BY MATHEW BEECH

ELECTION 2010

on to his Rochester and Strood seat for Labour by just 213 votes.

The maverick MP's triumph was overshadowed, however, as he made a pre-result announcement to the press declaring that he would lose his seat, blaming the result on then Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Iraq war.

His early forecast proved wrong and he has served the last five years living with the tag of 'rebel MP'.

But he is leaving Parliament now and his place as the Labour candidate is taken by Teresa Murray.

She faces Mark Reckless (Conservative) and Geoff Judy (Liberal Democrats).

Gillingham and Rainham is also seen as a seat that Labour can easily lose. Paul Clark MP hung on to his seat in 2005 with a majority of just 254.

Mr Clark, a parliamentary under-secretary of state for transport, is standing for the fifth time, having won on the past three occasions.

His Conservative Party opponent is Rehman Chishty, who defected from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



SIR CLIVE OPENS SPORTS CENTRE

World-Cup winning coach Sir Clive Woodward will head for Gillingham this weekend to help mark the official opening of the multi-million pound Medway Park sports centre.

The former England rugby star, who led the national team to victory in the 2003 World Cup, will address the crowd on Sunday, April 11.

Sir Woodward will deliver his speech at the closing ceremony of the Modern Pentathlon World Cup, which starts tomorrow.

Medway Council's community services boss Howard Doe said: "I am pleased to welcome Sir Clive Woodward to Medway Park to help us mark the completion of this superb centre. Medway Park will provide great sporting facilities for serious sporting contenders and a legacy for all local people."

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Suicide rates targeted in five-year plan

LOWERING suicide rates has been identified as one of NHS Medway's 10 core commitments in their five-year strategy to improve mental health.

The authority's Live It Well draft strategy aims to cut the number of residents who take their own lives.

NHS Medway revealed there are on average 20 deaths a year from suicide and undetermined causes in the towns.

The Live It Well document also outlines plans to improve care for those with drug and alcohol problems, reduce the number of residents with mental health problems and give patients more say about their care.

The document has been made available for public comments.

NHS Medway has revealed that at any one time in Kent and Medway there are between 163,000 and 190,000 people with common mental health problems, such as anxiety and depression, of whom a quarter need treatment.

A further 60,000 people suffer from a severe mental illness, such as severe depression or post traumatic stress, and 12,000 more live with severe and enduring mental illness, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Mental health boss Lauretta Kavanagh said: "This strategy is about all of us working together to improve mental wellbeing."

"We hope people will let us know whether they think it covers the right things in the right way and makes the right commitments."

"Any changes that people suggest will be considered before we publish the final version. I would urge everyone to take a look."

Live It Well, which covers 2010-



MENTAL HEALTH: Medway Maritime

2015, sets out a vision for promoting mental health and well-being, intervening early and providing personal care when people develop problems, and focusing on helping people to recover.

It was developed by the mental health commissioners for Kent and Medway, with input from those who use mental health services.

An online questionnaire, summary and full version of the draft strategy is available at www.medwaypct.nhs.uk. You can also get a printed copy of the summary, questionnaire, and draft strategy, by writing to Claire Martin, NHS Medway, Fifty Pembroke Court, Chatham, Kent ME4 4EL.

The deadline for feedback is Friday, May 7.

For confidential emotional support call Medway Health Matters on 0800 107 0160 from 5pm to 9am Monday to Friday. The service is available 24 hours at weekends and bank.

Police clampdown on drivers in village

POLICE are warning motorists in Cliffe to drive sensibly or risk losing their vehicles.

The clampdown comes in response to concerns raised by residents in relation to a rise in reckless and dangerous driving through the village.

Officers stepped up patrols and stopped a Cooling man on Saturday, March 20, after he was seen driving dangerously in Cliffe.

His car was seized after it was revealed that he had no insurance. He must take out insurance and pay a release fee to get his vehicle back.

Neighbourhood officer PC John Fallon said: "We are going to be taking a zero tolerance approach to people who drive in an anti-social way."

Work starts to repair and repaint bridge

A VICTORIAN bridge will be repaired, refurbished and repainted, Rochester Bridge Trust bosses have confirmed.

The major maintenance works on the Old Bridge, connecting Rochester to Strood, began on Monday and should be completed by December.

The footway will be closed for the duration of the works, but pedestrians will be able to cross the river using the New Bridge.

Bridge clerk Sue Threder said: "We do not expect to have any road or lane closures as part of this work, so there should be little if any disruption to traffic across the Old Bridge."

The Old Bridge was built by William Cubitt in 1856.

Two in court after stabbing incident

TWO men have appeared in court charged with grievous bodily harm with intent.

Richard Peter Mumford and Warren Paul Bennett, both 28 and of Upper Luton Road, Chatham, were arrested after an incident near their homes in which a 21-year-old Gillingham man suffer stab wounds.

Both men appeared at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday, March 26.

Mumford pleaded guilty to the charge and will be sentenced at a later date. Bennett pleaded not guilty. A trial date has been set at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday, June 21. Both men have been remanded in custody.

Town centre clean-up 'success'

A HEROIN user was arrested as he prepared to inject the deadly drug in a town centre toilets.

The man was one of 11 people arrested by police in a multi-agency operation in River ward, which covers central Chatham. He was caught by a police dog patrol team in the Pentagon Shopping Centre toilets.

Plain clothes officers also arrested a group of suspected purse thieves in Chatham town centre and five truants were returned to school.

British Transport Police issued 23 cautions for cannabis possession at Chatham train station, while 35 people found drinking in the town's alcohol control zone had drink seized.

Superintendent Des Keers, deputy area commander for Kent Police in Medway, hailed the day-long operation on Friday, March 26, a success.

He said: "Once again we have showed what can be achieved when police work alongside the council and other agencies to tackle those issues that matter most to residents."

Medway Council's enforcement boss Rehman Chishty added: "I hope it gave people confidence about the work being done by the police, council and other agencies."

Traffic enforcement officers carried out spot checks in Rochester High Street and St Mary's Island, Chatham, and stopped 30 motorists for speeding in Maritime Way.

Twenty bags of litter and a sofa were cleared from the Queen Street car park in Chatham by offenders taking part in Kent Probation's Community Payback scheme.

Eight graffiti sites were also identified or cleaned by Medway Council.



CLEANING UP: Community Payback scheme



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World's athletes meet at new sports centre

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

LEADING athletes will compete in Gillingham from tomorrow when the Modern Pentathlon World Cup gets underway.

The four-day event is being held at the newly-opened Medway Park sports complex, formerly known as the Black Lion.

The state-of-the-art sporting centre of excellence has undergone an £11 million pound redevelopment and expansion, and now boasts a 12-court multi-use sports hall, an eight-lane athletics track and refurbished fitness suite.

The swimming pool and cafeteria have also been improved, and three new dance studios have been built.

The Modern Pentathlon World Cup – which features shooting, fencing, swimming, show jumping and running – is the first international sporting event to be held in Medway.

Medway Council leader Rodney Chambers said he was proud to welcome athletes from all walks of life to the centre.

"I am pleased that Medway Park is now open for all as it offers unrivalled sporting facilities for people across Medway and beyond," he said.

"It is a top class sporting centre and this can be seen by the fact that it is holding the Modern Pentathlon World Cup.

"Medway Park will be a centre that local people will benefit from for years to come."

To mark the centre's completion, a celebration event will be held at Medway Park on Sunday afternoon – the final day of the Modern



WORLD CLASS: The newly-opened Medway Park sports centre will play host to the Modern Pentathlon World Cup, which starts tomorrow

Pentathlon World Cup. World Cup winning coach Sir Clive Woodward, who led England's Rugby Union squad to victory in Australia in 2003, will address the crowd at 4.30pm.

Medway Park is set to welcome more illustrious guests later this year, with both the National Tetrathlon Championships being held there in June and the English Table Tennis Association's Butterfly Grand Prix tournament in October.

The facility will also act as a pre-London 2012 Olympic Games training camp for 13 Olympic and eight Paralympic sports.

The Paralympic Association of Barbados and the Portuguese gymnastics and trampolining

squad have signed agreements to hold their pre-Games preparations at the centre, while other teams have shown an initial interest in coming to Medway.

Community services boss Howard Doe said: "Medway Park is a fantastic site and I am very proud of the fact that it is now completed.

"We have gained a huge amount of interest from national and international sporting associations over the centre.

"I am pleased to welcome Sir Clive Woodward to Medway Park to help us mark the completion of this superb centre."

For more information on Medway Park please go to www.mpw2010.co.uk

More shops and parking for town

PROPOSALS to regenerate Chatham High Street have been approved by the council.

The multi-million pound plans will see an area from the High Street to Best Street completely redeveloped – increasing shopping space and car parks.

A draft masterplan outlines plans for at least 30,000 square metres of extra shop space. High street stores, such as Debenhams, will be redeveloped as part of the proposals.

Medway Council's economic growth boss Jane Chitty said: "By focusing on the huge retail potential, we can attract businesses and retailers, creating jobs and boosting our local economy."

The approved plans will also see expansion work at the Central Theatre, allowing for a new café and improved backstage facilities.

New squares will be created at the Brook pumping station, Clover Street Church and St John's Church.

The blueprint also outlines improvements to street lighting and benches.

Van driver fined for using phone

VAN driver Chris Nicholl has been fined £45 after being caught using his mobile phone while at the wheel.

The 33-year-old, of Lower Twydale Lane, Gillingham, was spotted driving an Iveco Daily van in Sittingbourne on Monday, November 30.

He pleaded guilty to the charge and was sentenced at Sittingbourne Magistrates Court on Tuesday, March 23, after pleading guilty to the charge.

Nicholl was fined £45, had his licence was endorsed with three points and he was ordered to pay £15 costs.

Shaw sitting on safest seat with majority of 2,000 votes

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
the Labour Party in March 2006. The Liberal Democrat candidate is Andrew Stamp, 27, who was elected to Medway Council in May 2007.

Chatham and Aylesford MP Jonathan Shaw holds Medway's safest Labour seat, with a 2,000 vote majority in 2005.

The main party candidates standing in opposition are law graduate and insurance worker Tracey Crouch for the Tories and EU civil servant John McClintock for the Liberal Dems.

Across the constituencies, there will also be representatives from the Green Party, UKIP, the English Democrats, the BNP and independent George Meegan, who is standing in Gillingham and Rainham.

For more on Gordon Brown's visit to Medway visit www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Have your say - tell us the type of MP you want serving you in the next Parliamentary term.

Email us at yourmedway@kosmedia.co.uk or post a comment on www.kentnews.co.uk.

Muggers trapped by DNA left on beer can

TWO booze-fuelled muggers have been convicted after DNA evidence lifted from an empty beer can linked them to a violent attempted robbery.

Terry Williams and Matthew Macleod were convicted of attempting to rob a 54-year-old man in King Edward Road, Chatham, on Wednesday, July 15, 2009.

They were both sentenced to more than two-and-a-half years behind bars.

Maidstone Crown Court heard the pair attacked their victim as he went door-to-door collecting newspaper money.

Macleod, 35, of Strover Street, Gillingham, and Williams, 30, of Boundary Road, Chatham, approached him from behind.

Williams threw a brick at the man, causing a three-inch gash on the back of his head, before both fled.

Witnesses confirmed the pair had been drinking prior to the attack and an empty beer can was found nearby.

A forensic study confirmed that Macleod had been drinking from the beer can.

Investigating officer PC Claire Hammond said: "Incidents such as this prove how valuable DNA evidence can be to secure positive outcomes.



CONVICTED: Williams and Macleod

"Williams may have thrown the brick, but both men were responsible for the attempted robbery and we are pleased that they have been given prison sentences.

"This was a mindless act, which left an innocent man with a serious head injury.

"I would like to thank all of those who helped with the investigation.

"The support of residents and the witness statements they provided helped to make sure that both men were rightfully convicted."

Williams was sentenced to 32 months imprisonment after pleading guilty to attempted robbery at Maidstone Crown Court on Wednesday, March 24. Macleod was jailed in January after pleading guilty to the same charge.

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Recreating the Dunkirk spirit

The tunnels beneath Dover Castle housed the operations centre for the audacious bid to bring stranded Allied troops back from the beaches of Dunkirk in 1940. To mark the 70th anniversary of Operation Dynamo, a re-enactment of the historic event is being held at the castle next month. **NICK AMES** joined rehearsals and discovered how the retreat was still a victory for some of Britain's bravest.

THIS year sees the 70th anniversary of the historic World War Two evacuation of the beaches of Dunkirk when thousands of Allied soldiers were plucked from under the Nazi Germans' guns and shells by an armada of warships, merchant vessels and pleasure craft.

Operation Dynamo, as the evacuation was known, was overseen from underneath Dover Castle. To mark the anniversary the labyrinth of tunnels under the castle will be open to the public as part of a series of events at the castle between May 28 to June 4.

Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay, who was given less than a week to prepare the British escape from northern France, oversaw the operation.

From his headquarters in the tunnels he directed and inspired a small staff, which had the awesome task of planning the evacuation of British and French troops while under constant attack from German forces.

Shelling

By May 26, 1940 Ramsay had assembled 15 passenger ferries at Dover and a further 20 at Southampton.

These it was hoped would be able to embark troops direct from the quays at Dunkirk.

But minefields and shelling from German batteries on the French coast forced evacuation convoys to take longer routes to Dunkirk.

The first convoy, after sustaining heavy air attacks, found the port of Dunkirk with its oil tanks ablaze and only the passenger ferries Royal Daffodil and later the Canterbury succeeded in berthing.

By the end of the first day just 7,500 troops had been rescued and it was clearly impossible to use the port.

Officers on the beaches signalled for the rescue ships to be diverted to the east of the town.



BIG PLAN: Prime Minister Winston Churchill with Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay, who planned the Allied escape

Ramsay knew he needed more seacraft to rescue the troops who were driven back to the Channel by Nazi forces and a plan was quickly drawn up.

In London the Admiralty's Small Vessels Pool had been collecting all available seaworthy pleasure craft.

With volunteer crews, many of whom had never sailed out of sight of land before, they were checked at Sheerness Dockyard and then sent to Ramsgate to await final sailing orders.

There the small boats were joined by a mixture of lifeboats, trawlers, Thames sailing barges and tugs.

The first convoy of little ships set sail from Ramsgate at 10pm on May 29 and by the next day they were streaming across the Channel in seemingly unending lines.

The dangers were great; ships, both large and small, were targets for German fighters, bombers, submarines and coastal batteries plus the random danger of mines which made the crossing unimaginably hazardous.

But the seas remained abnormally calm.

Many smaller craft headed for the beaches acting as tenders, ferrying men from the beaches to larger vessels anchored offshore.

Some of the larger trawlers and drifters loaded troops directly in Dunkirk Harbour.

On the evening of June 2, with the German forces closing in, Ramsay despatched another flotilla of ships, including 13 passenger ships, 14 minesweepers and 11 destroyers.

Only one more night of evacuation was possible. On the night of June 3 a final effort was made using British, French, Belgian and Dutch ships to bring out as many of the French rearguard as possible and more than 26,000 men were saved from the advancing German troops.

About 338,000 troops were rescued from Dunkirk, and almost 200,000 soldiers passed through Dover, Folkestone and Ashford.

During the nine-day operation the Southern Railway laid on a total of 327 special trains, which cleared 180,982 troops from Dover.

A total of 4,500 casualties were treated at the town's Buckland Hospital and all but 50 of these seriously ill men were saved.

During the week of commemorations the castle will be manned by re-enactors in wartime uniforms and costumes, a memorial service will be held, guns will fire in salute and a wreath will be laid.

• To see a video a tour of the tunnels go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: Operations staff at Dover castle had the daunting task of saving thousands of under-fire Allied troops



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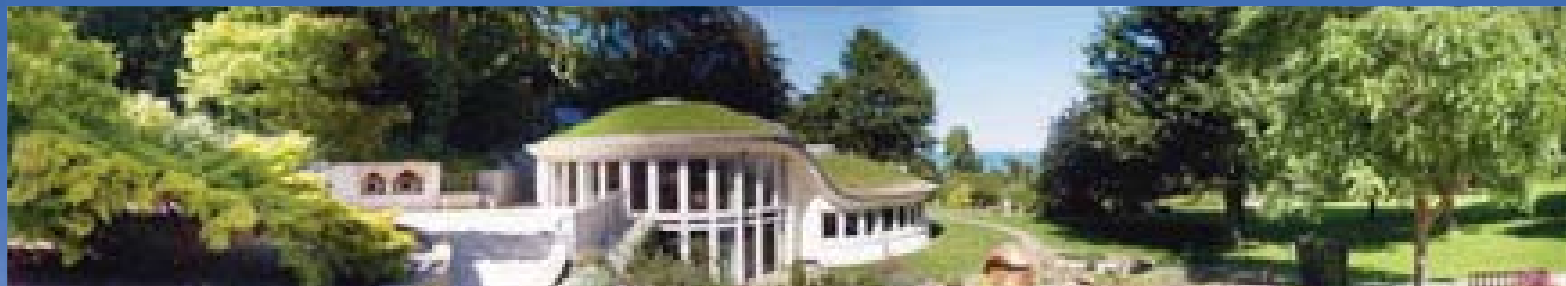
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Five of the very best

BY MARIJKE COX

FIVE of the UK's top police officers have been selected as potential candidates for the position of Kent's new Chief Constable.

The hopefuls were chosen from a list of eight applicants by the Kent Police Authority's appointments panel and will now face an intense two-day interview before a final decision in May.

Ann Barnes, chair of the authority, said the selection process for the £150,000-a-year job was "extremely difficult" but believes these candidates have what it takes to fill the role, which was left open following Mike Fuller's move to be HM Chief Inspector of the Crown Prosecution Service last month.

Mrs Barnes said the standard of applicants was outstanding, making the task of drawing up the shortlist difficult.

She said: "We had a high number of applicants. Kent is a popular force and this county is like no other when it comes to policing."

Mrs Barnes said the mix of urban and rural communities created real challenges for Kent Police and the Chief Constable.

"This combination means different sorts of policing are needed," she said. "We've also got millions of people coming through the county because of the port and the Channel Tunnel, which can bring so much misery through organised crime."

"Kent is one of the hardest counties to police, so it's vital we choose the right person."

Mrs Barnes said the prospective Chief Constable will be faced with a number of chal-



COP A LOOK: From left - Giles York, Simon Ash, Simon Cole, Alfred Hitchcock, and Ian Learmonth (who is not pictured) make up the shortlist of candidates for the position of Kent Chief Constable

lenges, including financial cuts, with a potential loss of £20 million from the budget during the next few years. But she said the calibre of the applicants filled her with confidence.

"The candidates really understand the challenges of policing this county," she said.

Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Leppard will take on the job temporarily until the position is filled at the beginning of August.

Mr Leppard had been expected to apply for the role permanently after Kent Police Authority said it would seek an exemption to rules which state a senior officer who has been deputy and assistant chief constable is unable to apply for the top job at the same force.

But Mrs Barnes confirmed Mr Leppard, who missed out on the Chief Constable position at Norfolk in January, did not apply. However, he said he was delighted to be appointed the role of temporary Chief Constable.

"There are exciting and challenging opportunities ahead, including our ongoing commitment to listen to the people of Kent and Medway and deal with the issues that really matter to them," he said.

THE SHORTLIST

- Giles York, 43, is Deputy Chief Constable of Sussex Police. He started his career in Kent in 1990 and has served as area commander of Medway, and head of Special Branch at Kent Police.
- Ian Learmonth, 52, is Deputy Chief Constable of Norfolk Police. He has been a police officer since 1976 and served at two other UK police forces before joining Norfolk.
- Simon Ash, 49, is Chief Constable of Suffolk Police. He began his career at Kent Police in 1982.
- Simon Cole, 43, is Deputy Chief Constable for Hampshire Police. He joined Hampshire in 2003 as Assistant Chief Constable having served in West Midlands Police since 1988.
- Alfred Hitchcock, 51, from Lancashire, is Deputy Chief Constable and head of the National College of Police Leadership and National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA). He has more than 30 years' experience in policing.

THE chair of the Kent Police Authority has admitted she was disappointed that only one woman applied for the job of Chief Constable.

Ann Barnes, pictured right, said it showed the force was still a male-dominated profession and confessed she had hoped more female officers would have applied.

"Only one woman went for the job and she didn't make the shortlist," she said. "I was disappointed there were not more female candidates. Unfortunately there are very few women in senior positions. There has never been a female chief constable at Kent Police."

Mrs Barnes said she has been working towards improving the progression of women within the force. In 2006, a gender strategy group was set up to address the matter.

But Mrs Barnes admitted that to go for the chief constable job, the candidate would have to have completed a Senior Command Course, which is only available for officers at chief superintendent level, of which there is only one woman in Kent Police. Currently, there are 1,036 female officers - with the highest-ranking officer being Detective Chief Superintendent Debbie Doe.

Mrs Barnes said: "Women can reach these levels, but progression is tough."

"The situation is improving. We now have more women going through the promotion barriers so we are cracking the obstacles."

"We've taken positive action to change the situation and I think it is working."

Before leaving his position as chief constable, Mike Fuller said a modern, responsive police service needs a range of opinions and experience that only a balanced workforce can provide.

"Since 1978, we have increased the number of female officers by more than 350 per cent," he said. "Women work across a variety of roles in the force, such as forensics, emergency response, firearms and investigation."



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QUESTION & ANSWER

ED WALDEN



Q Tell us a little about yourself

A I was brought up in South Wales, and left school at 16. I joined the Royal Navy, serving for seven years. I subsequently joined British Transport Police (BTP) and now have 16 years of service with the force under my belt. I've also been an officer with Gwent Police as well as the New Zealand Police.

I have been married for five years and my wife and I moved to Kent after I was promoted to Inspector in December 2008 and relocated to Ashford.

Q Tell us a little bit about British Transport Police.

A Including myself there are 25 police officers and four detectives based at Ashford BTP station and we police 110 railway stations throughout Kent. Crime at the stations we police is down some eight per cent on last year – not only are offences down, but we are actually making more arrests and solving more of those crimes that do occur. The figures show the railway is a very safe environment and the chances of becoming a victim of crime are very low.

Q How did you come to work for BTP?

A I became interested in the police service while serving in the Royal Navy in 1993. BTP held a recruitment seminar in Plymouth,

where I was based and I realised it was a career that would give me some really good prospects, where I could use the skills I'd gained in the Royal Navy. Six months later, I joined as a police officer.

Q What's the difference between you and Home Office police forces?

A BTP is the national police force for the railways, providing a police service to passengers, rail operators and their staff throughout England, Scotland and Wales. We have 2,835 police officers and 1,455 support staff and work closely with our colleagues from Home Office forces and the train operating companies, including Southeastern.

Q Do you have different training?

A We undergo the same thorough training as the Home Office forces to ensure that we are fully-trained in upholding the law. However, working for BTP also requires good knowledge of the rail network and the unique issues that come with policing it.

Q What's the best bit of your job?

A I enjoy being able to do something that directly improves life for Kent's rail commuters. Increasing passenger safety and seeing dangerous people being taken off the streets is what it's all about for us.

Q What's the worst?

A The most difficult part of the job is dealing with the death on the railway. It's a particularly hard and a traumatic experience for everyone involved, having to inform a family after the death of a loved one.

Q How would someone go about becoming a BTP officer?

A I would advise anyone thinking about becoming a police officer to consider the BTP. There is scope to work nationally and in many specialist areas. Visit our recruitment website at www.btprecruitment.com.

Q What do you do in your spare time?

A I enjoy travelling a lot, getting outdoors and camping. I also like to cook – I think it's an important skill to have and I take a lot of my culinary inspiration from the different countries I've visited.

Q Which place do you want to visit most in the world and why?

A I would really like to visit Canada as I have heard so many good things about the country from family and friends who have visited. It's one of the few places I haven't yet got around to visiting and I hope to do so this summer.

Q&A

Inspector Ed Walden is in charge of policing at Kent's 110 railway station. Here the county's most senior British Transport Police officer talks to **Jill Hurst** about the best and worst aspects of his job

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GOING... GOING... GONE: The end of the massive chimney stacks near the Lafarge Cement were demolished as well-placed explosives were detonated by demolition experts last week

Chimneys sent tumbling to make way for regeneration

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

THIS is the moment Kent's skyline changed forever.

Two massive chimney stacks were brought crashing to the ground with the detonation of a pair of well placed explosives.

The chimneys were each 550ft tall and came down in seconds last weekend.

As the crowds watched and cheered, they toppled into clouds of dust while several

hoses pumping hundreds of gallons of water onto the debris battled to keep the fallout to a minimum.

The demolition took place at the Lafarge Cement site in Northfleet, near Gravesend.

For two glorious centuries the towers had lorded it over the region, and yet they tumbled into the earth in almost the blink of an eye.

It was the biggest demolition project in Europe for some time, and now the site will become part of a grand redesign of the area.

Lafarge is turning the site into a mixed-use development that will include new homes,

shops and a riverside promenade – a far cry from the heavy industry for the past 200 years.

The firm also has plans to build an aggregates import terminal at the former cement works, which shut in 2008. This part of the project will create around 100 new jobs for the area.

Company spokesman David Simms said: "We have a clear vision for the future of the site to reconnect the existing Northfleet community with the riverside; revitalise a range of employment opportunities in the area and regenerate formerly derelict land to the benefit of new and existing communities."

Sanctioned patients kept against their will

MENTAL health patients in Kent are sometimes detained against their will because they do not realise they are allowed to leave, says a new report.

Some patients who voluntarily enter the county's hospitals for treatment are locked in with patients who are not allowed the leave, because for example they have been sectioned.

The findings were made by the Care Quality Commission – England's health and social care regulator – which has now ordered the Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust to make urgent improvements to its working practices or face tougher enforcement action.

CQC regional director Roxy Boyce said: "The trust has been working on improvements since our inspections this year, but CQC has put a condition on its registration because we have not yet seen enough evidence to convince us our concerns have been fully resolved."

The social care partnership trust provides services across Kent and Medway with a main focus on mental health. It also helps people with learning disabilities and substance misuse problems from more than 260 sites across the county.

Linda Leonard – chief executive of the Sevenoaks branch of the mental health charity Mind – said patients needed to be given more information about what they can and cannot do.

She said: "It's important because it concerns people's rights. It's about making sure patients have the right information."

According to the CQC, the trust must revise its informal leave policy for non-detained patients and provide evidence of this from May 1. It must also ensure members of staff are fully-trained to deal with the revised policy by June 1.



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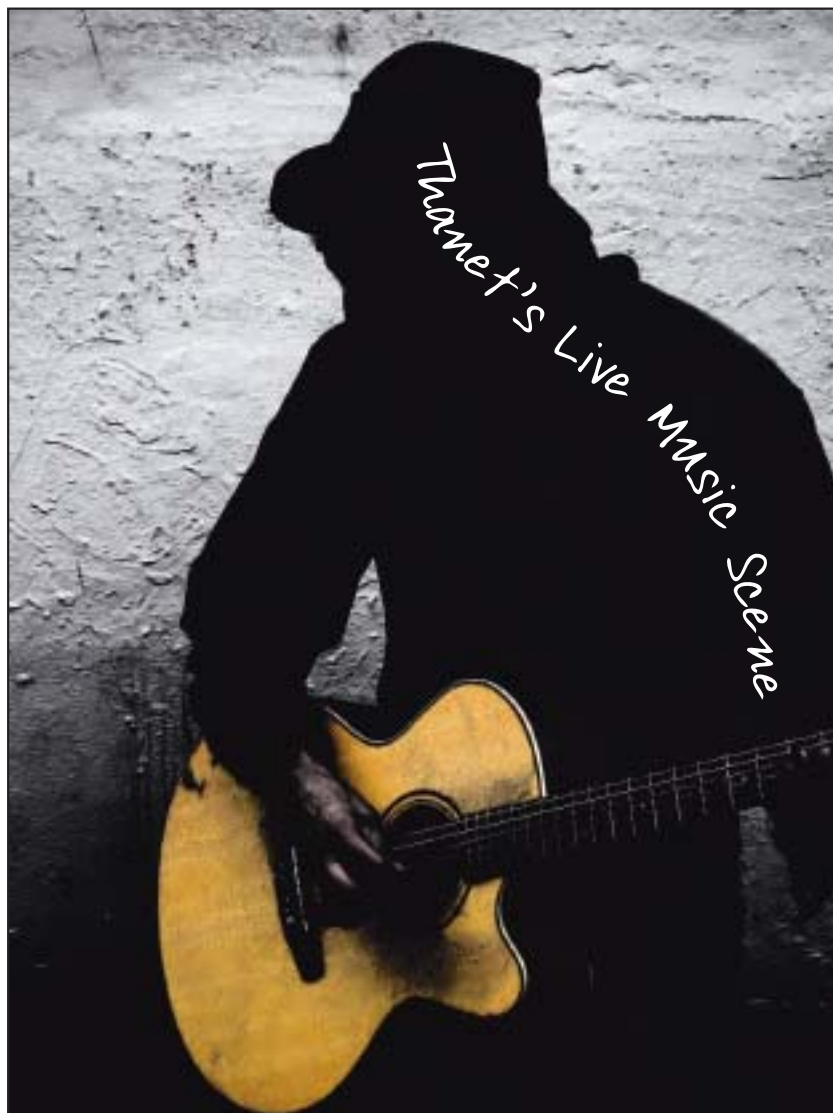
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Saturday 17th April

Crazy Train

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Saturday 8th May

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Saturday 8th May

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Songbird's DNA secrets

WHY did the chicken cross the road?

Because scientists had already sequenced its DNA and it wanted to meet the zebra finch, which now joins it as the only other bird to undergo the research.

Darren Griffin, professor of genetics at the school of biosciences at the University of Kent, is among an international group to have mapped the small bird's genome.

The chicken was completed in 2004 and scientists say this new work will help them better understand how humans work.

The research was published in Nature magazine. The team said the work offers an opportunity to understand the human brain during learning and memory, as well as other features such as immunity and fertility. It will also reveal the genetics underpinning some of the uniquely fascinating

■ BY CHRIS MURPHY

traits of birds, such as plumage and song. It was no straightforward task, though.

Teams from across the USA, Europe and the Middle East, including seven UK-based research groups, contributed to the project.

Prof Griffin said: "One of our key findings was the genetic basis of a lot of the variation between chickens and zebra finches.

"Clearly the two birds are very different, but evidence had suggested their genomes were actually very similar. In fact, we now have a clear idea of why this is not the case.

"The chicken was a great start for genomic studies because of the agricultural and embryology angle.

"In evolution, chickens are a bit out on a limb and the zebra finch is a much better representative of the majority of birds.

From here, we can use the information and tools we have developed to study many aspects of bird evolution and ecology."

The teams said zebra finches and other songbirds have one important thing in common with humans: they learn how to converse with one another. Chickens do not demonstrate this, so a comparison between the zebra finch and chicken genomes helped to identify where the genes involved in vocal learning are located.

It has been known for a while that listening to songs affects genes in the brain of a zebra finch.

This project has shown there are also important changes in what the genome actually produces when a young male zebra finch first learns his song from an adult tutor.



SMALL WONDER: Prof Darren Griffin with zebra finch

Fair boost to Bobby Moore fund

FOOTBALL fans have the chance to buy a piece of history while helping to raise money for a good cause.

A memorabilia fair, which includes programmes and badges, has so far raised more than £400 for the Bobby Moore Fund.

Organiser Simon Randall, from Maidstone, is returning to Folkestone Invicta's Buzzlines Stadium, in Cheriton Road, to add to the fund, set up in memory of the 1966 World Cup-winning captain.

One of England's greatest sporting heroes, Bobby Moore was capped 108 times, captained his country a record 90 matches and also won the FA Cup, the European Cup Winners' Cup and was named Footballer of the Year.

The defender played his club football for West Ham and Fulham over a career which spanned more than two decades. He was awarded the OBE in 1967.

His death in 1993, at the age of 51, from bowel cancer, led his widow Stephanie to set up the fund as part of Cancer Research UK and has raised over £12 million and funded



GOLDEN MEMORY: Bobby Moore lifts World Cup

36 projects across the UK.

The fair is in Folkestone Invicta's Stripes Bar on Sunday, from 11am to 2pm.

Entrance is 50p for adults, free for children, and there will also be a raffle.

Border Agency court challenge on 'unlawful' child interviews

YOUNG asylum-seekers detained at Dover are being denied basic care during "unlawful" interviews with customs officers, claims a new report.

The Refugee and Migrant Justice (RMJ) charity says many children are refused food, rest and medicine until after they have completed "oppressive" grillings with UK Border Agency (UKBA) staff.

In its report - Safe at Last? Children on the Front Line of Border Control - the organisation also alleges young migrants do not have access to legal or adult representatives, nor translators.

Chief executive Caroline Slocock said: "Unaccompanied children arrive hungry, cold and often ill, having travelled for months in great danger.

"Their welcome is an interview by the UK Border Agency that often puts welfare at risk and is used to gather information that is later used against them.

"Such interviews - carried out without independent adult or legal representation, and sometimes without the right interpreters - are unacceptable. Children should not be treated in this way."

RMJ says it first raised concerns about the 'illegal' interviews in March, 2009, when its Does Every Child Matter? report alleged the UKBA was failing to protect the welfare

of young asylum-seekers, as set out in the agency's own code of practice. The charity claims at least 20 interviews take place every month involving children as young as 12, but says the figure could be higher.

Mrs Slocock said: "They say the interviews are intended to help protect children, but unacceptable treatment continues. Children seeking asylum should be given care first. We are taking this to the courts, but in the meantime the interviews should stop."

RMJ has applied to the High Court requesting a judicial review of the interviews, and on their use in the decision-making processes that later affect a child's asylum claim.

UKBA strategic director for protection Hugh Ind said it was not true youngsters were denied basic needs such as rest, food or medicine. He said: "We have a statutory duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and we take this very seriously.

"To ascertain a child's welfare we need to speak to them and an initial interview is necessary. We will continue to ensure vulnerable children are referred to welfare agencies or the police as soon as possible.

"Our staff and interpreters have clear guidance on how to conduct interviews and comply with a code of conduct."

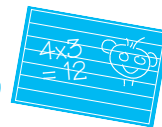


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The only stipulation is that the maximum dimensions do not exceed 56 x 45 x 25 cm.



BREAK TIME



TASTER: Pupils enjoyed a day at the Medway campus of Canterbury Christ Church University

Teenagers become students for a day

SECONDARY school pupils have been given the chance to sample life at Canterbury Christ Church University's Medway Campus.

The higher education taster day gave the year 12 pupils the chance to find out more about studying at the campus, as well as having tours of the facilities.

The teenagers also got a chance to take part in interactive seminars for early years studies, primary education, social care and associated health professions.

Campus director for Medway Peter Milburn said: "The taster days are a great way to show pupils the Medway Campus, see our excellent facilities and meet students.

"Most importantly, they got to take part in seminar sessions, helping them gain an insight into the learning and teaching styles at university."

The students were also able to explore the Drill Hall Library and access information on how to apply and fund studying at university.

Royal date for award-winning fashion lecturer

■ BY MATHEW BEECH

UNIVERSITY lecturer Sheelagh Wright and close friend designer Karen Millen were invited to Buckingham Palace for a Royal celebration of the fashion industry.

Sheelagh, who teaches at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA) in Rochester, and UCA alumni Karen attended the function on Tuesday, March 16.

Speaking after the event Sheelagh said: "It was a wonderful evening and I felt honoured and very privileged to be at Buckingham Palace to represent UCA.

"I was lucky enough to speak to the Queen, who was very interested to hear about our fashion courses at UCA.

"She was particularly pleased to learn that the skills of the couture houses were being taught at university level, thanks to our new BA (Hons) Fashion Atelier degree."

Sheelagh was very close to missing out on the royal reception following an injury she sustained in autumn last year.

"I had a fall at work and broke my scapula in October last year and have only just returned to work," she said.

"It was only a few days before the reception

that I found an envelope in my pigeonhole with a royal postmark dated January.

"I ripped it open, praying that I hadn't missed anything, and screamed with relief to see the reception was a few days away and I could still make it."

Sheelagh spent most of the evening with business partner Karen, with whom she co-founded the Gateway School of Fashion in 2008.

The design school, set up to provide training for teenagers affected by HIV in South Africa, won The Times Higher Education award for Excellence & Innovation in October 2009.

Sheelagh said: "It was really inspiring to be surrounded by so many big names from the fashion industry.

"The reception provided a great opportunity for established designers to mingle with the next generation of young British talent.

"I introduced Karen to up-and-coming designer, Christopher Kane, who could not believe he was meeting Karen Millen.

"He went on to tell her that he worked in her Brompton Road shop when he was a student." It was an emotional return to Buckingham



PARTNERS: Sheelagh Wright and Karen Millen picking up their Times Higher Education award

Palace for Sheelagh, who has had one previous visit.

She said: "My mother did a lot of charity work when I was growing up, so the family got invited to one of the Queen's garden parties.

"We didn't get to meet the Queen that day and sadly my mother was diagnosed with cancer the following week.

"She was awarded an MBE, but was not well enough to go to Buckingham Palace to receive it, so the award was presented to mum at the Heart of Kent hospice."

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YOUR LETTERS

Tale of two cities and one Dickens Festival



'Olof Rilap' – not even the council's that daft

With regard to your page three story in last week's edition of Yourmedway, 'Olof Rilap' indeed.

We're not falling for that one. You'd have to go further than Portsmouth to beat Medway Council for stupidity.

Lisa Dillon, Chatham

Comment posted on www.yourmedway.co.uk

National Care Service offers dignity to old

Labour's commitment to creating a National Care Service, free when people need it, would give peace of mind to everyone in Gillingham and Rainham and ensure dignity for the elderly.

A National Care Service, built on the founding principles of the NHS, will end the terrible fear that people in Gillingham and Rainham have that they will become a burden on their families as they get older.

Labour's ambitious plan will help more of our old people cope longer at home and protect those with the greatest needs from charges and fees for care in their own homes.

It will end the postcode lottery of provision and ensure that people who have been in care homes for more than two years will get their care for free.

Like the NHS, it is a system based on fairness, where all make a contribution and the burden is spread.

I'll be proud to campaign at the election for Labour's National Care Service, built on the principles of fairness and responsibility and delivering peace of mind for all.

Paul Clark,

Labour MP for Gillingham & Rainham, by email

Safety first with this free health check

Thousands of people in Medway are being invited in by their GPs to have a free NHS Health Check.

The check, for people aged between 40-74, will assess each person's individual risk of developing type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke and kidney disease.

The chance of developing these diseases increases with age, and certain things – such as being overweight, smoking, high blood pressure and high cholesterol – put

your blogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Medway...



IF PUBLIC interest in politics was displayed as a pie chart, it would consist of just one colour and be labelled with a giant thumbs down.

The widespread belief that MPs and would-be replacements are all stereotypical soundbite-belching, back-stabbing, policy-pinching politicians has led to widespread voter apathy, with turnout at the polls steadily declining.

Apart from the odd exposé on second home fiddles or MPs' sex and fetish-related sleaze story, politics rarely captures the public's imagination.

But every so often all the right ingredients come together to propel politics up in the interest stakes, sending Question Time ratings through the roof.

Such a time in almost upon us – the General Election is just around the corner.

Importantly, there's no clear favourite in the race for Number 10.

In the one corner we have red-rosette-wearing Scot Gordon Brown and in the other his blue counterpart David 'call me Dave' Cameron.

The days when Tony Blair would walk it without breaking a sweat are gone.

This is a proper head-to-head race. And that makes it exciting for us. We can watch the heavyweight political rivals shout, tease, provoke and point at each other during a heated Prime Minister's Questions.

As things stand, this election is practically teetering on the edge of being settled behind the Houses of Parliament bike shed.

Battle lines have well and truly been drawn, from Westminster to the farthest reaches of the UK.

MPs in marginal constituencies are working their socks off to hold on to their seats while prospective candidates are working just as hard to snatch them away. Look outside your house/office/train now.

I'll bet within ten minutes you'll be able to spot a campaigner canvassing for your vote.

And they'll do anything to get you on side. So why not see what they're willing to offer in return for your X against their name when you go to the polls.

Your support is surely worth at least a Mars bar? Or perhaps you can convince your MP to hop on one leg in return for your vote? It's worth a go.

And when our MPs and wannabe-MPs are not out door-knocking, they're back at HQ desperately seeking some dirt to fling at their opposition. It's like watching Trisha.

"He'll raise taxes ... and he supports ID cards," one MP's press release could potentially scream.

"No I won't ... and no I don't, they're lying. Besides his party wants to hand over power to Brussels," comes the ever-escalating response.

So I urge you, pay attention and get involved.

Once the election is over the boring status quo will soon be restored.

That is until the next scandal is spread across the tabloids.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817185 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.

people at even great risk.

The good news is that, by making lifestyle changes, they can often be prevented.

That's where the free NHS Health Check comes in.

After a person's risk is assessed, they will be given personalised information and advice.

If they need help with, for instance, losing weight, getting active, or drinking less, they will be told about local support available.

The first patients (those aged 40 and over, whose ages end in 0 and 5, and those who are 74) are already starting to get letters from their GPs.

During the next five years everyone in the age group will be invited in for a first check – unless they have already been diagnosed with one of the conditions, in which case they will continue to be checked in their usual way.

The free NHS Health Check will be offered every five years.

The check itself consists of a blood pressure test and a cholesterol test, height and weight measurements, and questions about your medical history including your age and ethnic background (because people from some communities have a higher risk of heart disease, for instance) and that of your close family.

If the results from this first check flag up that you could be at higher than average risk, tailored advice and treatment will be given and you may be

invited to have further tests.

The NHS Health Check identifies people's risk of diabetes, kidney disease and cardiovascular disease – including heart attacks and stroke.

Even if you're feeling well, I would urge you to take up the NHS Health Check when it is offered to you – prevention is better than cure.

Dr Alison Barnett,

Medway's director of public health, by email

Charity winners of super all-round effort

The football superstars of Sainsbury's Hempstead Valley took on Gillingham Anchorians Ladies football club on Sunday, March 28 to raise funds for Sport Relief.

The 'Sainsbury's Superstars' went onto win a hard-fought contest 7-2 at Anchorians home ground in Darland, Gillingham. Sainsbury's Hempstead Valley duty-manager Mark Harding was the star of the show after scoring four times.

The match is estimated to raise £350 for Sport Relief.

Sixteen Sainsbury's Hempstead Valley colleagues made up the 'Superstar' squad, and they showed off their support for Sport Relief by wearing red and white kits as well as the official red and white Sport Relief socks.

They were up against a strong Anchorians ladies' side; currently

top of the South-East Counties Division One.

Sport Relief badges were proudly worn by all the players.

The 'Sainsbury's Superstars' got off to a flying start, and went into half-time 5-0 in front.

Sainsbury's Hempstead Valley store trainer Sabrina Simone is a regular in the talented Anchorians team and she and the rest of the ladies team put in a spirited second-half performance.

They clawed two goals back, before hitting the crossbar twice and having two penalties saved.

We are proud to have raised nearly £350 from this special match and we'd like to thank Gillingham Anchorians for their fantastic contribution to the event and their donation of more than £100 to Sport Relief.

We'd also like to thank our customers for their donations during the last two months and our colleagues who have all worked so hard to raise a grand total of more than £1,000 for Sport Relief.

Sainsbury's store manager Eddie Worth, by email

£170 a week pension gets Green's support

Kent Green Party supports a major shift in public spending to secure a state pension of £170 per week and a better future for older people.

This new Green Party policy is

based upon the Green Party's endorsement of the Pensioners' Manifesto produced by the National Pensioners' Convention, one of the largest campaigning organisations for pensioners' rights in the UK.

The Greens are currently the only one of the main four parties to support their campaign.

The Green Party supports a non-means-tested £170 per week, as well as free social care for all who need it, as is currently offered in Scotland.

Adding to the incomes of poor households would mean both more saving and some more spending in local shops.

The figure of £170 per week is calculated as the minimum required to keep the basic state pension above the official poverty line, according to the National Pensioners' Convention.

The Convention has called upon all parties to sign up to their Pensioners' Manifesto, which calls for a range of measures to improve conditions for older people.

None of the other major parties have signed up to the Pensioners' Manifesto to date.

The Green Party also supports an end to the fixed retirement age, meaning that many pensioners might continue working beyond retirement.

By doing so, they would continue to contribute tax and national insurance, helping to keep down the actual costs of the new pension level

Steve Dawe, press officer, Kent Green Party

Don't let rubbish become fire hazard

Storing large amounts of flammable material such as newspapers and cardboard can pose a substantial fire risk to your home, warns Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

The advice is to keep such items to a minimum to help reduce the chances and effects of fire.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service is also urging people to be good citizens and offer to help other family members and especially older people dispose of any household rubbish they may have accumulated.

Should you have a fire in your home, the presence of large amounts of flammable material such as newspaper will mean that the fire will spread at a much faster rate.

Our advice is to keep your home environment rubbish free and to keep escape routes and doorways unblocked at all times.

However, when throwing rubbish out make sure you store it sensibly so it does not present a fire risk while it awaits collection.

We also cannot over emphasise the importance of having working smoke alarms fitted in your home to allow early detection in case of fire. It is vital that you maintain your smoke alarms and test the battery once a week to ensure they can be relied upon.

Regular vacuuming around smoke alarms is also recommended. **Stuart Skilton, head of community fire safety**

your lifestyle

Scaling new heights

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DAY & NIGHT

Genesis hits revived

RELIVE the glory days of Genesis when a tribute band visits Gillingham this week.

Los Endos will perform at the Beacon Court Tavern in Canterbury Street on Friday. Doors open at 8pm and tickets cost £8. Book at www.wegotickets.com.

Find out more about the band at www.losendos.co.uk.

Make a date with Donn

ENJOY an evening of live jazz with the Donn Barcott Band in Gillingham on Thursday.

The band performs at the 44Two Club in Featherby Road on the second Thursday of each month, from 8.30-11pm. Refreshments are available. For more information call the Jazz Line on 01634 405037.

Learn history of house

DISCOVER the history of your home at an exhibition at Medway Archives and Local Study Centre in Strood.

Bricks, Mortar and Breeze Blocks: How To Research the History of Your House runs until June. Visitors can search planning applications, street directories and electoral registers. Call 01634 332714 or email malsc@medway.gov.uk for details.

Sign up to be a ranger

CHILDREN can become junior rangers for the day at Manor Park Country Park in West Malling on Thursday.

Anyone aged from eight to 12 can take part in the event, from 9.30am to 3pm, for £12.50. Children should bring a waste-free packed lunch and suitable outdoor clothing.

To book call 0845 824 7600.

Hear poet read work

POET Jamie McKendrick will be reading his work at Strood Library Hall on Monday.

The award-winning poet's latest collection, *Crocodiles and Obelisk*, explored the ways in which people remember their past. The reading starts at 7.30pm. To reserve your place, call the library on 01634 337799.

Puppets' magical story

A YOUNG boy embarks on the adventure of a lifetime in the enchanting family show, *The Dragon's Daughter*.

Blunderbus Theatre Company presents a magical story told with puppets and music at the Brook Theatre in Chatham at 2pm and 4pm on Sunday.

Tickets are £5.50/£4.50 from 01634 338338 or www.whatsonmedway.co.uk.

Join theatre workshop

YOUNG actors are invited to take part in a Mary Poppins workshop at the Avenue Theatre in Sittingbourne.

Beaumont Theatrical Academy's workshop runs from 10am to 4pm, from Monday to next Friday, and costs £50. The course will finish with a performance on Friday. For more details email rebeccabeaumont@yahoo.co.uk.



Go West reborn, and coming east

GO WEST

Friday, April 16
Central Theatre, Chatham



AFTER 25 years in the business, Go West are heading to the South East on their celebratory tour.

From their first smash hit, *We Close Our Eyes*, Go West became a big chart presence in the 80s and continued to release hit singles such as *Call Me*, *Goodbye Girl* and *The King of Wishful Thinking*, which was featured on the soundtrack of Hollywood film, *Pretty Woman*.

They have sold more than a million albums and continue to offer a fantastic live act, so fans are invited to join in the quarter-century celebrations by joining the band at the Central Theatre.

Even people too young to remember the band's 80s heyday will be familiar with Peter Cox's soul-drenched voice, thanks to the reality TV show, *Reborn in the USA*. In 2003, Cox received an emergency phone call when Then Jericho's Mark Shaw walked off the show and his decision to step in turned out to be a good one.

The series was won by Tony Hadley, of

Spandau Ballet fame, but Cox attracted new fans both sides of the Atlantic with his distinctive voice.

Cox first discovered his talent for singing at school, when he was asked to join the choir and also joined the Chapel Royal Choir at Hampton Court Palace in London. The discipline of attending choir practice twice a week would prove very useful in developing his voice and in learning about music.

Later Cox joined a band called Bodie, but one day he read a review of a band called Free Agent, which featured a musician called Richard Drummie. After going along to a rehearsal, Cox was impressed by Drummie's work and the feeling was mutual, so they decided to work together.

Although Drummie was confident in the power of Cox's voice, success did not come immediately and over the next few years, they were rejected by almost every major record label. Determined not to compromise on their soul-influenced sound in order to land a record deal, the pair spent their time writing songs that were true to their musical direction.

This approach eventually bore fruit and they won the support of record label Chrysalis, which released *We Close Our Eyes* in the summer of 1985 and stormed to the number five

spot in the UK charts, thrusting Go West into the limelight.

It was the start of an exciting time for the band and they were named Best British Newcomers at the Brit Awards the following year. Their 1990 album, *Indian Summer*, was produced in Los Angeles and included the hit, *King of Wishful Thinking*.

When Drummie returned home, Cox decided to remain in the US and eventually moved to Chicago, where he still lives.

The band took a break for several years and by the time they started working together again in 2003, they found the old chemistry was still there.

With a fresh new approach and Cox's raised profile, thanks to *Reborn in the USA*, the time was right to Go West once again.

Last year they released a new album, *Futurenow*, and set out to show fans just what they have been missing. Last year's shows saw the band introduce a song list, giving audiences the chance to choose tracks.

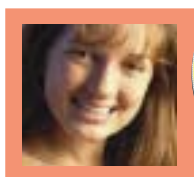
At next week's concert, they will perform the favourite old hits and some newer material.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £22.50/£21. To book call the box office on 01634 338338 or visit the website at www.thecentraltheatre.co.uk.



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WOMEN seeking men

WAITING FOR YOU Original single mum, 25, easy-going, looking for a nice guy, similar age, for lasting happiness. Box 851890

ARE YOU HER MAN OF THE MATCH? Fun-to-be-with, football-loving, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494

THE ART OF THE MATTER 27-year-old female, 5ft6, medium-curved build, N/S, enjoys reading, painting, cinema, walks, W/LTM, tall, attractive male, 23-32, for friendship, maybe LTR. Box 442644

STEP UP TO THE OCHE WITH ME! Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105

FANCY A CUDDLE? Loving single mum, 29, shoulder length black hair, brown eyes, 5ft3, slim and sexy, part-time carer, looking for reliable, loving male. Canterbury. Box 464326

IS ANYONE OUT THERE? 31yr old easygoing, independent female, W/LTM cuddly fellow to enjoy the finer things in life with, leading to LTR with the right person. Box 879931

COULD I BE THE ONE? Single mum, 33, divorced, looking to meet a male who enjoys walks, going out, time in and out and much more. Maidstone. Box 464835

HORSES FOR COURSES... Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5'2", blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013

HAPPY DAYS! Attractive, fun-loving female, 35, 5'4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, W/LTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734

SHREK'S APPEAL! Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft6, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877957

FOOTLOOSE AND FANCY FREE Curvy brunette, 35, with green eyes, 5ft3, no ties, looking for an affectionate, and caring, non-smoking guy to put the sparkle back into my life. Ashford. Box 840706

FEAST YOUR EYES ON ME... Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039

SEALED WITH A KISS Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079

GROW OLD WITH ME Single mum, 37yrs old, slim build, honest, kind and caring. I'm looking for LTR, love and romance with nice guy in Maidstone area. Box 860164

LOVE TO LOVE YOU Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, enjoys walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102

PUT A SMILE ON MY FACE Mum of three, 38, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male, 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693

MAGIC IN MARGATE Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666

FAMILY LIFE Fun to be with woman, 39, I love life, drinks in, walks, family life etc. Looking for a similar man in the Canterbury area. Box 467392

FAMILY ORIENTATED Eastbourne based woman, 39, 5ft8, slim/medium build. I'm a single mum, and enjoy cooking, music, family life. If you like the same, get in touch! Box 464034

CUTE AS CAN BE Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly more. Box 897983

SHOW ME HEAVEN Black lady, 38yr old, enjoys swimming, films and bird watching. Fairly new to the area. Wtm a male for friendship and maybe romance. Box 441608

FOR A RELATIONSHIP? Shy but confident-one known female, a mum, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106



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HAPPINESS, THE GREATEST GIFT... Shy female, 40, 5ft9, blue eyes, short blonde hair, medium build, loves going out, wine and dining, holidays; seeking like-minded gentleman to be happy with. Box 446763

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, with a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, gosh, looking for a man with no issues and gosh who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204

ANOTHER CHAPTER Hard working PA, 43, single mum, grey-green-blue eyes, loves socialising and enjoying life, seeks loyal, honest male to find love with. Sittingbourne. Box 461037

DOES THIS SOUND LIKE YOU? Single mum, 42, from Ashford, 5ft9, dark hair/eyes, likes wine bars, pubs, days out and keeping fit, looking for a caring and fun-loving gent, 5ft9+. Box 461129

BE MY FRIEND AND PARTNER Hi there, I'm female, 43, 5ft6, medium build, long dark hair/green eyes, I enjoy cinema, eating out and W/LTM genuine, caring, loving male. Chatham. Box 466612

NEW TO THIS Attractive single mum of 2, 43yrs old, 5ft1, medium build, GSOH, likes cooking, spending time with family & animals. W/LTM fun loving, kind, genuine man. Kent. Box 455182

FREE AD placement, call: 0808 156 5339
(Calls are free; mobile rates may vary; check with your provider)

COLLECT your messages: 0906 550 4335
(Calls cost £1/min; contact your service provider for details)

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with gosh for friendship/relationship. Box 450348

GET CLOSE Funny, cheerful lady, 44, 5'6", curly hair, very social, likes walks and pubs. Looking for a cuddly and outgoing man for a close relationship. Faversham. Box 467518

SWEET AS HONEY Petite, slim, honey-blond lady, 5'4" age 44, enjoys the seaside and horse-racing. Looking for a dark-haired, genuine, honest and professional man, 25-50 in Brighton. Box 458465

HOW YOU DOING? Attractive, curvy single mum, 44, kind, genuine, loyal and loving, seeking a man with similar qualities to share my life with. St Leonards-on-Sea. Box 459128

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY Bubbly female, 44, brunette, n/s, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955

WHY WAIT? Single curvy mum of three, 46, dark hair and blue eyes, GSOH, loves animals, socialising, seeking a similar and romantic man. Tunbridge Wells. Box 467997

COME ON OVER Fun-loving girl, 47, dark hair/eyes, attractive, looking for a similar male to enjoy nights out and good conversation. Rainham. Box 854480

YOUNG AT HEART Young 46, attractive, fun-loving female, looking for fit, handsome, intelligent, full of fun, sexy, worldly man to share everything that life has to offer. Box 884113

GENIE IN A BOTTLE Slim blue-eyed blonde, 47, 5ft4, animal lover with no ties, very sociable, non-smoker, loves the countryside, seeking easygoing companion and soulmate. Box 468120

NOTHING VENTURED... Humble lady, 47, GSOH, down to earth, non-smoker, enjoys life, likes meals and days out, seeks a life-loving guy to enjoy a meal with. Rochester. Box 466286

ENJOY LIFE TO THE FULL Young-looking 46yr old female, 5ft4, slim, blonde, non-smoker, affectionate, loyal, caring, seeking a male, 40-45, up to 5ft7, to share life with. Ashford/Maidstone area please. Box 460999

A REAL DIAMOND African lady, 47, honest, loving and caring, enjoy most things in life, looking for a male, 50+, for a LTR. Canterbury. Box 460999

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME? Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and LTR. Seaford. Box 444366

HELP ME OPEN UP Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes life, socialising, the seaside, walks, likes W/LTM male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585

ETERNALLY YOURS Easygoing woman, likes most things in life, country walks, films, cinema, cooking. I'm 46, 5ft2, medium build. W/LTM genuine, happy guy, easygoing and fun. Box 445635

NORMAL GAL Female, 48, divorced and happy, 5ft7, looking for genuine man, laughter, sincerity, smart, kind, tall honest man, age under 49 and over 30 a must. Maidstone. Box 866380

DREAM LOVER Petite blonde, young 49, loving, caring, enjoy music, walking, theatre dining in/out, looking for friendship and more with a genuine, caring and honest man. Rochester. Box 854822

MAKE IT ENJOYABLE Pretty, young-looking, slender woman, 49, dark-haired seeks reliable gentleman, 25-49 for a loving relationship. Rochester. Box 460686

ANY TAKERS? Divorced single mum, 49, 5ft4, animal lover, happy go lucky, likes quiet drinks and cinema, looking for a man for friendship, maybe a LTR. Ashford. Box 464557

ARE YOU LOVING AND CARING? Young 48 year old, loving, caring, very bubbly, 5ft5, medium build, blonde, blue eyes, likes clubs, cinema, eating out, cosy nights, good company. Box 434089

DON'T PASS ME BY Petite, brunette, 51, 5ft, likes live music, pubs and socialising, gosh, seeking a like-minded male for a serious relationship. Hastings. Box 467807

GETTING TO KNOW YOU Slim blonde, 51, 5ft3, very caring, active, loves day and gardening, with a man with similar interests to get to know better. Sheerness. Box 467412

JUST IMAGINE Petite, brunette, bubbly, friendly, easygoing single mum, 49, enjoys cinema, eating out, socialising, most things, W/LTM genuine male, to see where life takes us. Box 893562

LOVELY BUBBLY Short 51yr old professional lady, likes history, films and reading by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467

LOTS OF HUGS Positive woman, 60, independent but sociable, I'm 5ft4, red hair/green eyes, slim build. Hythe. I enjoy art and walks, seeking similar, intelligent man, lively, reliable. Box 464002

HOMELY LADY Easygoing lady, 61, 5ft1, walks, cosy nights, pubs meals etc. I'm hoping to meet someone for friendship, and then we'll see. Folkestone. Box 468963

ONLY LOVE Classy, intelligent, happy, slim, attractive, fit and active lady, 62, gosh, enjoys travel, gardening etc. Looking for that special friend to share life with. Box 883791

START A NEW CHAPTER 64 year old widow, 5ft, slim and fit, active and healthy, likes walks, theatre, gardening a social woman seeking similar non-smoking gent in Canterbury area. Box 467844

QUALITY TIME Widow, early 60s, likes dancing, drinks, gardening, socialising, and walks, seeking a good gent. Ramsgate. Box 460872

LOVE ME DO Loving and caring lady, 63, 5ft3, brown hair/eyes, likes most things in life, looking for a caring and considerate male for friendship, hopefully a LTR. Margate. Box 460082

LIFE IS GOOD! Slim, attractive lady, 65, enjoy outdoors, socialising, dog walking, socialising and music, lots of time and to give to the right person. Maidstone. Box 466636

SHARE FRIENDSHIP Lady, 67 years of age, tall, dark hair, non-smoker, likes a bit of gardening, fishing, the seaside, going out, reading, crosswords. Margate. Box 467419

MY HEART TO YOU 37 year old gay female from Kent, dark brown eyes, dark hair, loves the outdoors and fresh air, gardening, DIY, seeks feminine lady for love. Box 467298

LOVE TO LOVE Easygoing female, 40, blue eyes, blonde hair, medium build, likes wine, socialising, holidays, walks cinema; seeking like-wise female for companionship and more. Box 446953

HONEST AND SINCERE Woman seeking woman, I'm 63, fit/healthy, a veggie, have grown up kids and enjoy the sea, photography, the arts, red wine and laughter. Whitstable. Box 466597

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You can choose to text the member's 6 digit box number followed by a space, then your message (max of 160 characters) and send to 82250 e.g. 654321 Hi my name is... Standard network rates apply to send messages. Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message.

SMART MOVE Spontaneous, friendly, lively female, 55, likes cinema, walking, cooking, socialising, seeks similar person for friendship looking to hopefully more. Box 430854

FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH Very young 59 year old, 5ft, fun loving, straight-forward, honest, GSOH, employed with own transport, many varied interests, looking for friendship and companionship initially. Box 852149

WALKS ALONG THE COAST Honest & sincere female, 58, tall, GSOH, loves country pubs, coasts, cinema, seeking a man who's a match for me with GSOH for relationship. Box 441622

MUSIC TO MY EARS Hi my name's Christine, 59, 5'9", slim build, wear glasses, likes live music, theatre, playing darts, looking for a slim build male, for friendship, possible more. Box 419914

THE GOOD THINGS IN LIFE 59yr old young-at-heart, loving woman, I am hoping to meet a kind-spirited guy who loves animals, going for walks and the romantic side of life. Box 900143

BRIGHTENING UP Cuddly lady, 61, 5ft5, blonde, likes swimming, country pubs, cinema and much more. W/LTM tallish single male to hopefully brighten each others lives. Box 870214

BE YOURSELF Outgoing lady, active, 60, tolerant, open-minded, loves life animals, and genuine people, seeks a sincere man for romance. Margate. Box 865760

SIMPLE PLEASURES Hi there, I'm a 61yr old lady, blonde hair/green eyes, medium build, I love dancing, walking by the sea and W/LTM like minded gent. Box 459467

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS Loving and caring male, 40, 5ft8, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Canterbury. Box 458290

ALL YOURS? Reliable and very lovely man, 40, big bear with a big heart, looking for his soul-bear to hibernate with forever. Box 881373

TO ENJOY LIFE Hi I'm Mark, 40, 5ft8, brown hair and eyes, fit, not ugly, mature, honest, W/LTM someone trustworthy and caring to settle down with. Box 448377

LOVE ON THE DANCEFLOOR Outgoing, young-minded male, 47, smoker, likes war games, books, cinema, castles, places of interest, seeking similar woman to boogie on the dancefloor with. Margate. Box 443750

FUN & OUTGOING? Young at heart 44yr old male, stocky build, 5ft10, Kent-based, father, honest and down-to-earth, likes music, nights in, walking the dog, seeks genuine lady. Box 851804

BIG ATTRACTIVE GUY Gillingham male, 43, 6ft2, blue eyes, dark hair, confident, relaxed, divorced, two grown-up kids, a chef, works hard, loves soul music, seeks soulmate. Box 465158

LET'S BUILD A ROMANCE Hello, I'm Simon 43, single man in Kent own a construction co. Muscular build, blue-eyed, ruggedly handsome. Looking for a honest and genuine lady. Box 453322

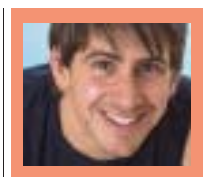
GSOH ESSENTIAL American male, 44, loves playing the guitar, looking for a decent female with a sense of fun about them. Brighton. Box 461140

THE REAL THING Happy-go-lucky, fun-loving male, 42, 5ft9, brown eyes, medium build, likes nights out/in with a can of coke, seeking similar female for companionship. Box 441762

WHAT A WONDERFUL WORLD Sincere guy, 45, 6ft, slim, likes clubs, pubs, bowling, cinema, meals out, looking for a slim female for a stable relationship. Gillingham. Box 462529

TAKING THINGS SLOWLY Slim male, 45, 5ft11, reliable and loyal, interests include walking, pubs, films, looking for a female, slim or curvy, for friendship initially. Gillingham. Box 462780

MUSIC LOVER Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Ashford. Box 467883



MEN seeking women

TELL IT TO MY HEART Autistic male, 35, likes most things, meals out, countryside walks, socialising, seeks caring, honest female for friend, friendship, maybe more. Canterbury. Box 467950

BOTTLE OF WINE Hi there, I'm an easygoing male, 35, 5ft9, medium build, brown hair, I'm based in Brighton and enjoy seeing friends, drinks, cinema, walks. Box 450165

HOP ON BOARD! Average bloke, 38, shy! Needs young lady, looks unimportant, single mums welcome. I love gardening and riding my moped. Sittingbourne. Box 468095

MAKE ME SMILE AGAIN Seeking genuine lady, I'm a 38yr old male, 5ft9, dark hair/blue eyes. I work hard and play hard, would like to enjoy spare time with partner. Box 443649

IT'S WHAT'S INSIDE THAT COUNTS Loving and caring male, 40, 5ft8, medium build, average looks, seeks outgoing, loving, caring person to find love with. Canterbury. Box 458290

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MUSIC LOVER Richard here, I'm 45, very loving, and I like holidays, listening to music, theatre, cooking, cinema, museums and restaurants. You? Ashford. Box 467883

THE POWER OF LOVE Brighton male, 45, 5ft11, dark hair/eyes, enjoy drinking, socialising, movies, nights in, cooking and clubbing, seeking a lady with similar interests for love. Box 467735

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Live assistance, 2pm-5.30pm. Mon to Fri. Email: louise@g8wave.co.uk (Calls cost 10p/min; contact your service provider for details)

BIG DEAL IN DEAL Warm, tactile male, 45, 6ft, likes socialising, pubs, clubs, cosy nights in, seeks like-minded female, for friendship, looking to more. Box 388967

TO THE FUTURE! Well-built male, 44, looking for a female for friendship and fun, let's make each other smile! Box 883622

WITTY Active, adventurous, articulate male, 43, own home/car, enjoys shopping, good food, country walks, music, most things. seeks homely, warm, trusting female. Box 408508

CAN'T SMILE WITHOUT YOU Carpenter with own house, 47, looking for a LTR, single mothers are welcome! Loves family life, cooking and beach walks. Box 449274

MEET YOUR MATCH! Slim single dad, 47, works full time, looking for a slim/medium build lady, 25-50, children not a problem. Hobbies include fishing, football, day and cooking. Dover. Box 462630

LOOKING FOR AFFECTION? Fit male, 47, 6ft, slim, hard working, gosh, genuine and honest, wtm a lady, 35-45ish, must be friendly and outgoing. Ashford. Box 466942

TAKE MY HAND Genuine, honest man, 47, likes dining out, walking, looking to share the good life with a woman, 35-50, Deal, Kent. Box 460441

POSITIVE ATTITUDE Good looking male, 49, 5ft11, I have a son of 13 who is great. I just want to find beautiful loving lady to share life with. Box 852357

FOR FUN & ROMANCE Canterbury male, 48, white, 6ft3, medium-large build, likes cycling and walking to keep fit, and boats! W/LTM slim black lady for possible LTR. Box 465219

GET BACK TO ME Good looking divorced man, 48, 6ft, likes keeping in shape, loves music and gigs; seeking slim lady, 30-40, relaxed, laid-back, for hopeful good relationship. Hythe. Box 460338

DEAL OR NO DEAL? Fit and active man, 52, 5ft7, slim build, smart dresser, likes cycling, walking, theatre, poetry and film, W/LTM a like-minded slim female, 35-55 with gosh. Deal. Box 459706

ALWAYS LAUGHING Outgoing and jovial man, 54, loves jokes, travelling, sports, athletics, gymnastics, solvent, seeking a professional lady, reasonably tall, brunettes or ginger hair preferred. St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 462867

FIT LADY WANTED Canterbury area, I'm male, 54, 5ft9, fit and active, attractive. I'm outgoing with a GSOH and enjoy meals out, nights in, animals, female company! Box 464416

NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE... Shy guy! 54, 5ft9, short brown hair, hazel eyes, enjoys walking the dogs, bowling, swims and especially family life, hoping to find the same. Maidstone. Box 468126

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with
JANE CONNOLLY
Email jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk



DRACULA

Tuesday, April 13 to Saturday, April 17, Kings Theatre, Chatham



SINK your teeth into a meaty musical as Spotlites Youth Theatre brings Dracula to life.

Based on Bram Stoker's tale of horror and vampirism, this captivating show gives young performers the chance to really shine as they explore a classic story. Under the guidance of industry professionals, some of Kent's finest young talents will cut their fangs in a show that is sure to get the blood pumping.

In the past, Spotlites Youth Theatre has taken innovative productions to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and received two five-star reviews.

The production stars a number of actors who have been performing with Spotlites Youth Theatre for some time, including Jonathan Anderson, 15, from Chatham, whose role as Lord Arthur Holmwood will be his fifth. Luke Millard, 15, from Twydall is also a long-serving member and 14-year-old Betony DuBock, from Maidstone, appears for the second time.

Last seen as Coco in Zombie Prom, Megan Jacobs, 18, from Sittingbourne has been a member since she was six.

Tickets cost £10/£9.50. To book call 01634 829468.



ROLLERMANIA!

Thursday, April 8, Orchard Theatre, Dartford



AS the original voice of the Bay City Rollers, Les McKeown became a global superstar in the 1970s.

With hits such as Shang A Lang, Summer Love Sensation, Remember, All Of Me Loves All Of You and their 1975 smash, Bye Bye Baby, the band achieved massive success worldwide and sold more than 300 million albums.

The phenomenal response of fans, dubbed 'Rollermania', was soon compared to the height of Beatlemania and as front man, McKeown became a pin-up idol for girls everywhere. Now fans

both old and new can spend an evening with Les McKeown and the legendary Bay City Rollers.

McKeown had just turned 18 when he was catapulted into the world of international stardom. In this new show, he performs the songs that influenced him as a youngster and remembers those exciting days of teenage fame, as well as performing the Rollers hits that made him a star.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £17.50. Book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01322 220000.

SWAN LAKE

Sunday, April 11, Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone



FROM the wonder of hope to crushing despair, Swan Lake is an emotionally powerful ballet.

Vienna Festival Ballet returns to Maidstone with this enduring popular work which tells a timeless story, set to the beauty of Tchaikovsky's music. Featuring the company's leading English ballerina, Melanie Cox – who has recorded The Dying Swan for a new British film – the production brings the lavish setting to life in sumptuous style, with its handmade costumes and beautiful scenery.

From the glittering palace to the haunting lake-side, Swan Lake takes the audience on an emotional journey through a truly captivating love story. When Prince Siegfried falls in love with the beautiful Odette, he has no idea that she bears a terrible curse and must always turn into a swan. But this story has a twist – the company producer decides whether the Prince will pay the ultimate price for his love, or if his wicked enemies will get their just desserts.

The performance starts at 2pm and tickets cost £19/£16. To book call the box office on 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.



PAUL DUNTON AND GUESTS

Thursday, April 15, Pizza Express, Maidstone



SOME of the UK's best unsigned acts can be discovered when Paul Dunton brings his guests to Maidstone.

The singer-songwriter holds a successful twice-weekly showcase in Tunbridge Wells and returns to the county town with another selection of emerging musical gems.

Next week's show features up-and-coming singer-songwriter Sorrel Nation, who has been on the scene for just a few months, yet is already making a big noise with her wonderful vocals and appealing acoustic style.

Once Nation has opened the show, Paul Dunton and his Crew will continue the entertainment, performing 'atmospheric piano pop with a classical twist'.

Combining the sounds of jazz, blues and soul, Sarah Sheldrake and Oli Scheuregger add their own sound, to mesmerising effect.

The evening's headline act is the Charlie Rivers Band, led by Rivers who has toured as far afield as Australia and the west coast of America. Other high-profile gigs have included supporting Madness on HMS Belfast.

Tickets cost £7. To book call 0845 602 7017 or visit www.pizzaexpresslive.com. Find out more online at www.paulduntonandguests.com.



TONY STOCKWELL

Thursday, April 29, Chilston Park Hotel, Lenham

SPEND an evening in the company of top medium Tony Stockwell at a very special event later this month.

The highly-experienced psychic is inviting fans to join him for an evening of mediumship and fine dining at the country hotel, giving them the chance to experience his gift in a slightly different setting. After enjoying a demonstration of Stockwell's powers, the audience will enjoy a delicious three-course meal before more psychic fun brings the evening to a close.

Anyone who hopes to hear from friends and loved ones on the other side could be in luck when Stockwell performs, as he claims to receive messages from people in the spirit world.

Renowned for his warmth and charm, he often uses objects and photographs to help receive his famously accurate messages and statements.

A large screen will help to immerse the whole audience in the experience, whether or not they receive a personal message.

The event starts at 7pm and tickets cost £85, including pre-dinner drinks and a three-course meal. To book your place call 01622 859803. More information about Stockwell can be found online at www.tony-stockwell.com.



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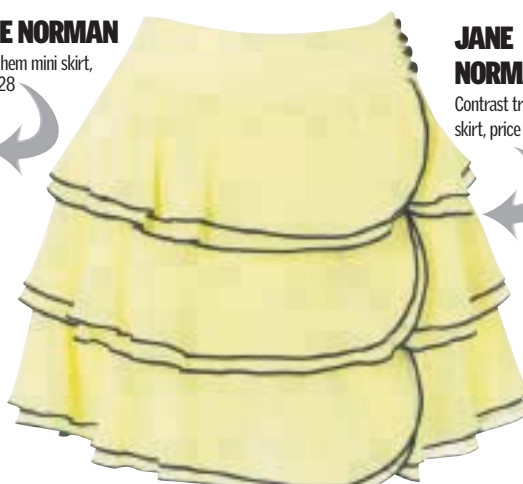
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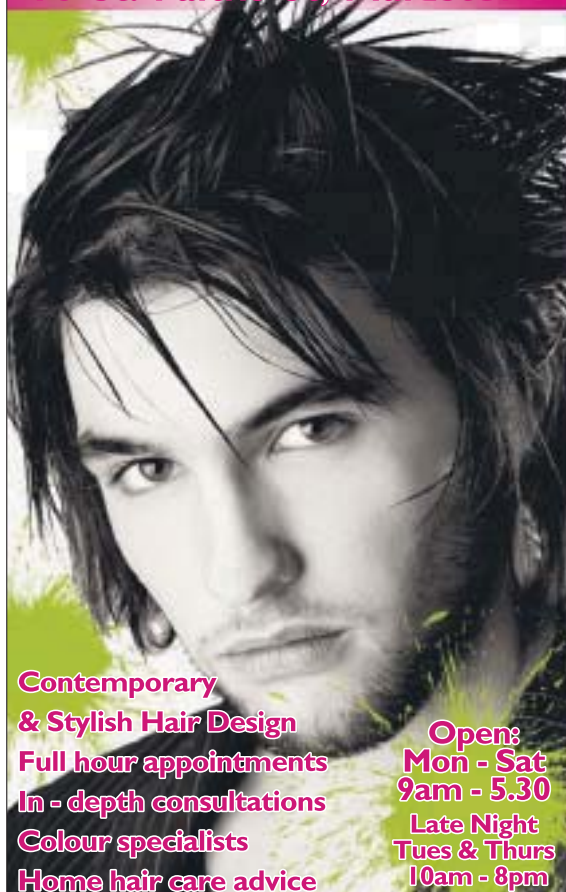
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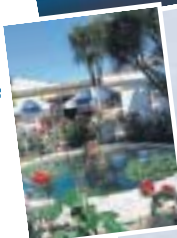
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No132

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CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Body or just the heart, say (5)
4 Agree Ray was puzzled by unclear situation (4,4)
8 From birth to death, enjoyable period (4,2,4,4)
10 Lazy louse agitated ardently (9)
11 This man is on target (5)
12 One who is discovered? (4)
13 Strain placed on harbour in country with low duties (3,5)
17 Burdensome amount of drudgery perhaps (8)
18 Fat fashion leader has small party (4)
22 No end of good fortune concerning money (5)
24 Reserve some diamonds in fashion centre (9)
25 Dramatic lovers (5,3,6)
26 Duly tear round with grounds for divorce (8)
27 Hatter almost upset Greek character (5)

DOWN

- 1 Townsman takes article into Channel Islands on Buddhist (7)
2 Criminal sheep rustler (3-6)
3 Exact place ahead (4-2)
4 Game complaint (6)
5 Happening seven times a week as usual (8)
6 OK it is 100% correct (3,5)
7 Of little folk who are not completely self-indulgent (5)
9 Tub for breakfast cereal? (4)
14 He is a card (9)
15 Sad beautiful girl's said bloomer (8)
16 Hundred leaving transport replaced by thousand at the ceremony (8)
17 Kay, after breaking law, to go on foot (4)
19 Leaves complaint first about former medicinal drink (4-3)
20 Dull dog moving inside dirty place (6)
21 Discharge account and leave (6)
23 Some manic rowdiness coming from multitude (5)

QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Cologne's river (5)
4 Zip-___ (8)
8 Revolving firework (9-5)
10 Frankness (9)
11 Early (anag.) (5)
12 Pour (4)
13 Largest of Shetland Islands (8)
17 Discovered (8)
18 Belch (4)
22 Even (5)
24 Town near Sevenoaks (9)
25 Under any circumstances (3,4,2,5)
26 Dark colour (4-4)
27 In front (5)

DOWN

- 1 Bat (7)
2 Throw in (9)
3 Nevertheless (4,2)
4 Monastery (6)
5 Bony (8)
6 Breathing out (8)
7 Each (5)
9 Poke (4)
14 Plenty (9)
15 Cold confection (3-5)
16 Feast (8)
17 Overcast (4)
19 Drunk (3-4)
20 Nap (6)
21 Ukrainian peninsula (6)
23 Pansy genus (5)

YOUR HOROSCOPE BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

BEWARE of a tendency to spread yourself too thinly. There are plenty of opportunities ahead and you want to experience them all. Choose the path that affords the most intellectual stimulation. Although learning something new will be frustrating, it will be fun, too.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

YOU'RE determined to spend more time on spiritually fulfilling pursuits. Hanging out with friends is better than spending long hours at the office and of course your nearest and dearest are eager to see you. Heading out with a large group will put a big smile on your face.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

A CULTURED, sophisticated colleague will try to introduce you to a new hobby. You'll meet a lot of interesting friends. As a general rule you like to learn a little about every subject possible, but right now you'll feel compelled to develop expert knowledge in a specialised area.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOUR high ideals prompt you to make a brave move. Confronting someone who has abused their power will put you in a dangerous spot. Still, you're willing to risk everything for the sake of fairness. People admire your courage and may even get a crush on you as a result.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

AN ATTENTIVE admirer is poised to wine and dine you. Although all this attention is flattering, it can be claustrophobic, too. Be sure to set aside some time for solitary pleasures. You're a lot more self-sufficient than you realise. Give yourself a chance to connect with your inner spirit.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

YOU'RE in the mood for fun, and why not? Recently you've been buried under a flurry of family responsibilities. Now you have a chance to get out and party. Join forces with a mischievous friend who likes getting in trouble. Together, you'll paint the town red.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

YOU'RE in a good mood and feel excited at the prospect of starting a new job. This opening or opportunity will bring in lots of money, but more importantly it will give you a great deal of creative satisfaction. Trust your instincts when it comes to dealing with a counsellor.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU'RE very impressive now, so be sure to surround yourself with positive, practical people. A wonderful job opportunity could become available. At first glance, this position will seem out of reach. With encouragement you could actually get an interview and make a great impression.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

AN EXCITING career opportunity is about to land in your lap. Although the interview process will be gruelling you owe it to yourself to give it your best shot. If you have a choice between working for a flat salary or earning a commission, choose the latter.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

AN INTENSE relationship is getting even hotter. You feel inexplicably drawn to someone who makes you furious one minute and happy the next. In the past, you paired up with people who offered you safety and security. Now you're ready for a walk on the wild side.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

LAUNCHING a spring cleaning project will keep you busy in the days ahead. Every once in a while you feel overwhelmed. When this happens, clear out your cupboards. Although you enjoy hanging on to old things, there's a difference between sentimental value and junk.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

STRONG ties to family prompt you to cut back your work schedule. If you've been coping with a horrible commute, you may decide to open a home-based business. You have the makings of a successful entrepreneur, thanks to your past experience and common sense.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

Calls cost 75p per minute. Service provided by g8wave London N7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD & SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No130

ACROSS: 1 Impact 4 Smutch 10 Tricolour 11 Jaunt 12 Karachi 13 Sirocco 14 Storage heater 16 Put a foot wrong 21 Debauch 22 Horizon 24 Iraqi 25 Annabelle 26 Yelped 27 Etched.

DOWN: 1 Intake 2 Prior 3 Choicer 5 Majorca 6 Truncheon 7 Hatbox 8 Coming to a head 9 Cross-hatching 15 Thumbnail 17 Abusive 18 Rarebit 19 Oddity 20 Indeed 23 Zilch.

QUICK SOLUTION No132

ACROSS: 1 Pastener 8 Catherine-wheel 10 Unreserve 11 Laybox 12 Teem 13 Mithral 17 Detected 18 Bump 22 Level 24 Tonbridge 25 For love or money 26 Navy-blue 27 Ahead.

DOWN: 1 Raquet 2 Interject 3 Even so 4 Friday 5 Skelatal 6 Exhaling 7 Evey 9 Prod 14 Abundance 15 Ice-olly 16 Festival 17 Dull 19 Pre-eyed 20 Snooze 21 Crimea 23 Viola.

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TODAY'S FORECAST



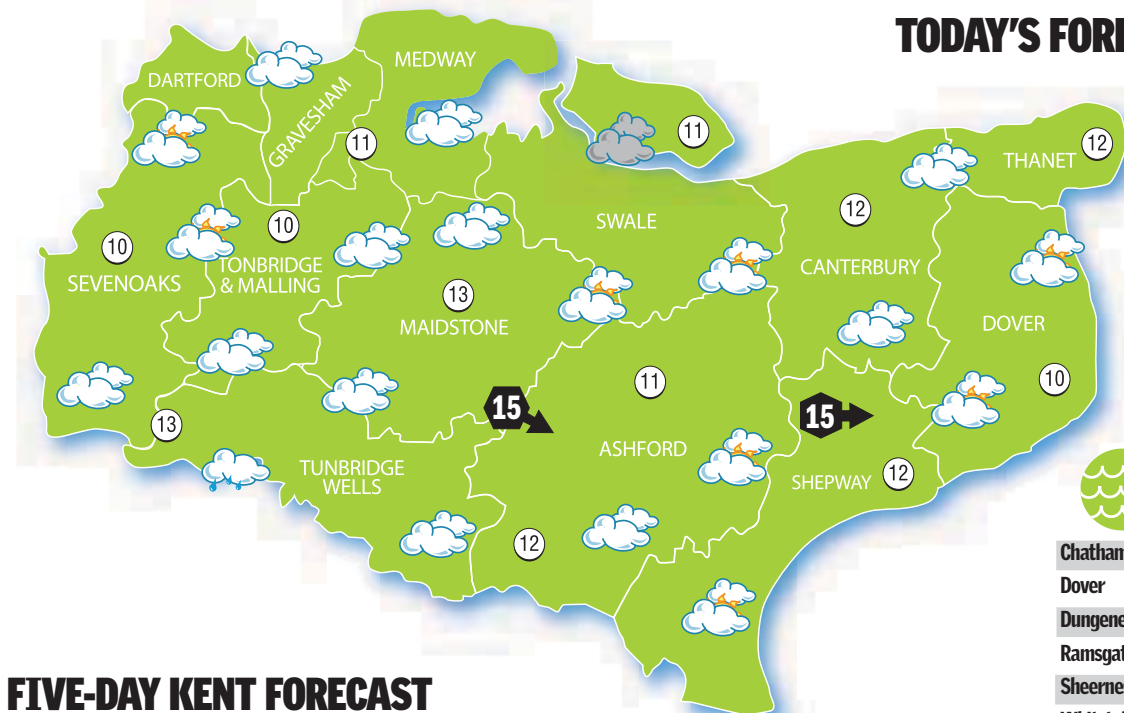
AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	9°C	Madrid	17°C
Athens	19°C	New York	21°C
Barcelona	14°C	Paris	13°C
Beijing	16°C	Rome	13°C
Bombay	36°C	Sydney	20°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	21°C
Cardiff	10°C	Tokyo	9°C
Gibraltar	16°C	Vancouver	13°C
Hong Kong	26°C	Warsaw	16°C
Las Palmas	21°C	Wellington	15°C






KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	11:14am 5.1m	Sunday	12:00pm 5.4m
Dover	Saturday	9:43am 5.5m	Sunday	10:24am 5.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	9:23am 6.1m	Sunday	10:12am 6.5m
Ramsgate	Saturday	10:13am 4.2m	Sunday	10:54am 4.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	11:03am 4.9m	Sunday	11:49am 5.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	11:10am 4.6m	Sunday	12:00pm 4.8m



FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon											Whitstable										Saturday	11:10am 4.6m		Sunday	12:00pm 4.8m	
Ashford	14°C	12°C	14°C	13°C	12°C	Dover	13°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	10°C	Gravesend	15°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	12°C	Sevenoaks	13°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	11°C		SUNRISE	6.17am	SUNSET	7.39pm			
Canterbury	15°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	Faversham	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C	Maidstone	15°C	13°C	13°C	14°C	12°C	Sittingbourne	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C								
Chatham	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C	Folkestone	13°C	10°C	11°C	11°C	10°C	Ramsgate	15°C	11°C	12°C	11°C	10°C	Tonbridge	14°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	13°C		MOONRISE	3.34am	MOONSET	12.11pm			
Dartford	15°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	12°C	Gillingham	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C	Rochester	13°C	11°C	12°C	10°C	9°C	Tun Wells	14°C	12°C	13°C	14°C	13°C								



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Dragon-training tale scales new heights in animation

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

ALMOST 10 years since Shrek emitted his first pungent burp, DreamWorks Animation soars to dizzying heights with a brilliantly-executed and deeply-touching story of one boy's friendship with a supposedly fearsome dragon.

Madagascar and Kung Fu Panda both lacked spark, but How To Train Your Dragon has invention and emotion in abundance, and will delight audiences of all ages with its lush visuals and smart script based on the book by Cressida Cowell.

Screening in 3D in selected cinemas and traditional 2D everywhere else, Dean DeBlois and Chris Sanders' fantasy combines a traditional rites of passage drama with breathtaking action and uproarious comedy.

The eye-popping format works especially well during the vertiginous flying sequences – you feel like you can almost reach out and touch the clouds as human and beast soar through the air in perfect harmony.

The unlikely hero is a weedy Viking called Hiccup, who has been told his whole life that dragons are evil beasts that would eat a man as soon as look at him.

Consequently, Hiccup and the other children in the village grow up with a hatred of the creatures and dream of training for battle alongside their warrior fathers.

Alas, Hiccup is too feeble and his father, tribe leader Stoick, protects the youngster from harm by entrusting him to the care of burly blacksmith, Gobber.

"One day I'll get out there, because around here, killing a dragon is everything," bemoans Hiccup.

Gobber convinces Stoick that dragon training might give the boy some backbone.



EMOTIONAL: Hiccup the Viking forms a touching bond with Toothless the dragon after nursing him back to health

So Hiccup joins feisty Astrid, Fishlegs, Snotlout and the twins Ruffnut and Tuffnut in the ring, where they learn to cope with all manner of fire-breathing creatures.

But unbeknown to the other recruits, Hiccup has befriended an injured dragon – a mysterious Night Fury – and has nursed the creature back to health and even nicknamed him Toothless. As the bond between animal and boy deepens, Hiccup questions everything he has ever been told.

How To Train Your Dragon is a wonderful adventure for the entire family, underpinned by the bond between Hiccup and Toothless that develops organically as the two characters become accustomed to each other.

The freedom that the boy feels in the sky contrasts with his suffocation on terra firma.

Vocal performances are strong.

Actor Jay Baruchel milks every ounce of sympathy for young Hiccup as he tries to make everyone happy and become the Viking

that Stoick wants him to be. When Stoick inevitably discovers his son's betrayal and angrily disowns him – "You're not a Viking, you're not my son!" – there's a genuine lump in our throats, which we soon swallow when the script delivers yet another belly laugh before setting up the rousing finale.

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON Certificate PG



VIEW THIS PREVIEW



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YOUR TV REVIEW ASK THE CHANCELLORS: Channel 4, Thursday

■ BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

TELEVISION history is set to be made over the next few weeks with live election debates between the three main party leaders.

The deal was negotiated between the big three broadcasters, the BBC, ITV and Sky. However, not to be outdone, Channel 4 neatly added its own footnote by coming up with an exclusive Chancellors' Debate.

Not only was this a stroke of genius, considering how much of a key role the economy is going to play in voters' minds, but there were no rules to stifle it.

Unlike the prime ministerial debates, there were no pre-arranged time limits and the current incumbent Alistair Darling, together with his Tory and Lib Dem counterparts George Osborne and Vince Cable, were free to speak at length.

There was no blood on the carpet from a hoped-for knockout blow, but if anything, this

proved a positive advert for politics. It was polite, robust, succinct and engaging in equal measure and no doubt gave everyone extra food for thought come the expected May 6 polling day.

The Conservatives' Osborne probably had the most to lose as one of the perceived weakest links on the party's front bench, and was caught out on how he would reconcile proposed tax cuts with reducing the deficit.

But he was resolute about the Tories' latest policy decision, announced earlier that day, on reversing part of Labour's proposed national insurance rise, saying it would be bad for business and jobs.

Alistair Darling lost some credibility in suggesting that lower unemployment might avoid deep cuts in public spending, but challenged Osborne over narrowing tax credits.

The Lib Dems' Vince Cable received the most rounds of applause by reminding the audience he correctly predicted the economic meltdown and denounced the other two par-



GOOD-NATURED: Chancellor Alistair Darling debates the economy with Vince Cable and George Osborne

ties for being beholden to either militant unions or rich non-doms.

But he was inaccurate in his statement that every former building society had collapsed in the crisis, which those in the former Abbey National offices would take issue with.

But none of the more heated exchanges threatened to boil over and the three suited

men almost seemed to enjoy the novelty of standing behind their lecterns.

Krishnan Guru-Murthy did a competent job as the show's anchor and it was on the whole good-natured and informative, exactly what television executives should strive to achieve, rather than the mud-slinging and insult-throwing we unfortunately expect.

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The closing date is April 25, 2010.

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Question: What is a baby koala called?

a) Puppy b) Joey c) Kitten

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yourmusic

Ray joins all-star line-up at festival



MAIN SUPPORT: Former Kinks frontman Ray Davies joins Bob Dylan at the Hop Farm

■ BY JON COATES

FORMER Kinks frontman Ray Davies is the latest big name to be added to the bill of the Hop Farm Festival.

The singer-songwriter will be the main support to headliner Bob Dylan at the Paddock Wood event on Saturday, July 3.

Davies will head for the Hop Farm a week after playing Glastonbury Festival's pyramid stage.

The 65-year-old, who embarked on a successful solo career in the mid-90s and was awarded a CBE by the Queen for services to music in 2004, is best known for the classic hits he penned for The Kinks, including You Really Got Me, All Day and All of the Night, Sunny Afternoon and Waterloo Sunset.

English indie rock band The Magic Numbers and Northern Irish singer-songwriter Foy Vance have also been added to the Saturday bill of the festival.

The Magic Numbers, two brothers and two sisters who met at a Catholic school in Middlesex, have released two albums and supported Travis and Snow Patrol on tour.

Foy Vance, 35, from Bangor, County Down, released debut album Hope in 2007 and has a live EP out now of a performance with Ulster Orchestra at the Waterfront in Belfast.

The Saturday line-up now reads Bob Dylan, Ray Davies, Mumford & Sons, Seasick Steve, Pete Doherty, Laura Marling, The Magic Numbers, and Foy Vance.

The site off the A228 near Paddock Wood will open at 6pm on Friday, July 2, for anyone wanting to camp. There will be a small bill on the Friday night, which is yet to be announced.

Tickets, which cost £65 for the Saturday event, including car parking, and another £25 for the two nights camping and Friday bill, are on sale online at www.hopfarmfestival.com.

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Funk rockers Tokyo Jo



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- 2 Craig Sheridan - Winter Sunn
- 3 CWB - Footsteps (from Canterbury)
- 4 Rogues Down - Poison Arrow (from Deal)
- 5 I.R.I.S - Thicker Than Water (from Deal)

The site will open for day ticket holders at 11am on the Saturday, with Dylan due to finish his headline set at 11.30pm.

Festival organiser Vince Power said: "For the third year there will be no sponsorship and branding, and no VIP area. We are trying to put the emphasis on the music."

Another event is being planned for Sunday, July 4, which will have a different type of bill. The line-up for this is due to be announced later this month.



EYE TO EYE: A polar bear gets up close and person with intrepid guests on the Tundra Buggy near Churchill in northern Canada

yourgetaways

We're going on a bear hunt in frozen wastes of Canada

■ BY EMILY BEAMENT

AFTER studying us carefully for several minutes to see if we might make a suitably tasty lunch, the giant bear finally lost interest in us, turned, and headed off across the snow.

"In the bear world, the bigger the bum, the better," explained our expert guide Patrick Rousseau.

It seems colder winters keep the ice frozen for longer periods, enabling them to eat more seals as the weather turns colder.

We're out on the tundra near Churchill, a village in northern Canada about 600 miles north of Winnipeg, and about 600 miles south of the Arctic Circle. It calls itself the polar bear capital of the world, and with good reason.

Getting here isn't easy. After an eight-hour flight into Winnipeg, a 20-seater plane takes you north over frozen wastes for another two hours.

Barely 1,000 people live in Churchill, but each autumn, hundreds of polar bears gather here on the shores of Hudson Bay.

It is not just their bottoms that are big. Polar bears are the world's largest carnivore found on land, and everything from their dinner-plate sized feet, to their highly-sensitive black noses, is absolutely enormous.

Males weigh 1,600lbs or more, but only when a polar bear rears up on its hind legs to look you in the eye do you realise how powerful and fearsome they are.

Luckily we were inside a 'tundra buggy' – a large, solid vehicle on six-foot-high tractor wheels once used to practise the invasion of Russia.

You can get a sense of the scale of the vast, cold wilderness on a heli-

FACT FILE: CANADA

Time difference	-35 to -8 hours (GMT)
Capital	Ottawa
Language	English and French
Population	34 million
Currency	Canadian dollars

Emily Beament travelled on 13-day Polar Bear adventure with Thomas Cook Tours and Canadian Tourism Commission, from £4,295. The package includes Air Canada international flights, door-to-door pick-up for travellers in the South East and regional connecting flights. Thomas Cook Tours reservations: 0844 871 5170 and www.thomascooktours.com. Further information is available on www.canadatourism.com.



copter trip, from which we spotted bears and other wildlife, including moose.

With Patrick, who worked as a wildlife biologist for the Canadian National Park Service for 34 years, sharing his knowledge, we gained a great insight into the life of bears.

Although they can look cute, they are 10 feet tall on their hind legs, and easily able to peek in through our driver's window.

One bear peered at us through the front windscreen, allowing us to see how they can wiggle their noses – which we were told can smell through six feet of ice, and pick up the scent of a seal five miles away.

And as for those big bums, Patrick told us the ice had lasted longer than normal in the summer, allowing them more time to feed, and the bears were in better shape than they have been for some time.

Life is more comfortable for the

human out-of-towners; we were chauffeured around the town in an old school bus for a history tour, a visit to the Eskimo Museum and a talk by local photographer and wildlife expert Mike Macri.

While we were out on the tundra all day – with picnic lunches on the buggy – hearty breakfasts and dinners were provided in town at Gypsy's restaurant, and there was even time to brave the cold for a bit of shopping in the gift shops.

Polar bears are not the only wildlife seen in Churchill, which is also home to Arctic and red foxes, birds such as ptarmigan and, in summer, beluga whales who venture up the Churchill river. You might even see the Northern Lights.

However, in the autumn, it is all about the bears, and I will never forget coming face-to-face with the most famous inhabitant of the increasingly-fragile Arctic.

MONEY MATTERS



Be clear about your finances

Inside your pull-out supplement

- Help your tenants cut their costs
- Check your lease to avoid repair bills
- Passing on the business baton
- Your word is your bond – or is it?
- Getting the best car deal after Scrappage
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY TO ALL OFFERS

Help tenants cut costs

IN these economically challenging times, virtually every company – from global corporates to small enterprises – will be monitoring their expenditure and making economies wherever possible.

And one way a landlord can help businesses minimise their outgoings is by negotiating better deals on utilities and services on their tenants' behalf. The resulting savings can then be passed on in reduced service charges.

All tenants are looking for value for money and quality of service, and if landlords don't do their best to retain their loyalty, occupiers are likely to vote with their feet and move. In these difficult times we all need to make that extra effort to retain our core business.

As owners and managers of substantial business parks in the UK and the USA, we have considerable buying power. However, all landlords can make savings for their tenants. They should meet all their contractors to review existing contract terms, frequency of service, explore bulk-buying opportunities and renegotiate contractor profit margins. They should also research the best utility contracts on the market, which can vary considerably.

We have done all this at Kings Hill and renewed our contracts early to secure the best possible prices.

This saving can have a huge impact on businesses. It could mean that redundancies don't have to be made because the savings can cover salaries. It could free up funds for researching new markets or simply mean that businesses can stay afloat.

Responsible landlords will probably already have sought better deals for their 2010 service charge budgets. However, those occupiers who

Andrew Blevins, managing director of Kings Hill developer Liberty Property Trust UK Ltd, explains how landlords can help occupiers beat the recession by securing reduced service charges



SAVINGS: Liberty Property Trust at Kings Hill have reviewed their service contracts for 2010

feel that the service charges they are paying are too high should contact their landlord to see if reductions can be made in the 2011 budget rounds.

Typically, service charges are payable quarterly, with a reconciliation after year-end resulting in further payment or rebate. To ensure that the year-end resolution is dealt with fairly, tenants could seek the advice of a chartered surveyor who would assess the fair-

ness of the charges, ensure that the tenants are receiving what they are paying for and ensure the quality of provision.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors website provides guidance to landlords to ensure good practice prevails. Visit www.rics.org

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Richard Metcalfe of Metcalfe Stanley Hicks chartered building surveyors, warns businesses they may find themselves seriously out of pocket if they neglect a little-understood area of their leases



FOREWARNED: Chartered building surveyor Richard Metcalfe could save you money

Don't get landed with repair bill

EVERYBODY who leases a commercial property needs to understand that unless you take appropriate steps before signing the lease, you will be responsible for repairing the property before you leave, regardless of its condition when you first occupy it.

Failing to understand the terms of their lease and its obligations can leave many businesses facing substantial and unwelcome

costs at the end of their term. In the vast majority of cases it is the responsibility of the outgoing leaseholder to repair and reinstate the property before the end of the lease. In the absence of this, the leaseholder must compensate the landlord.

Getting the work done can be disruptive to the leaseholder's business and may force them to vacate early. Negotiating a financial sum with the landlord can be difficult and may involve substantial legal costs.

Chartered building surveyors work closely with legal advisors to negotiate the pitfalls of dilapidations, ensuring that their clients, be

they landlords or leaseholders, respectively maximise their gains or minimise their losses when buildings are being vacated.

Too often businesses believe that, as they are leasing rather than purchasing, there's no need for a building survey. This is a dangerous misconception and before signing any commercial lease you must obtain proper professional advice and quantify your liabilities.

As a lease nears its end, landlords also need to take appropriate legal advice and consult a chartered building surveyor. A Schedule of Dilapidations must be prepared and served on the lessee in good time and in sufficient detail

by an experienced chartered building surveyor practitioner.

If you are the prospective leaseholder the message is – forewarned is forearmed – consult your chartered building surveyor before you sign the lease, and again in the last year of the lease, so that you may plan your effective exit.

The key is not waiting until you receive a Schedule of Dilapidations from your landlord.

• **For more information or to contact Metcalfe Stanley Hicks, go to www.msh-cbs.co.uk.**

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Onward and

For many businesses at the moment, survival is the name of the game, but when the upturn comes the issue of succession will once again return to the forefront of many owners' minds. **Paul Saunders**, managing partner of Clydesdale Bank for Kent, believes that the sooner you start planning, the better the chances of a successful exit and succession



COMPANY owners often leave it too late when it comes to succession planning, increasing the potential for internal wrangling and disputes which can cause people to take their eyes off what's important – running the business.

At the heart of the problem lies the fact that, for many owners, there's seldom enough time to accomplish day-to-day tasks, let alone plan for something that could be years away. So, when should you start succession planning? For many, it's when they have successfully navigated the start-up phase and

are approaching maturity, which is a time when the business is secure enough to start planning a succession and, ultimately, an exit. Once the decision has been made, the business owner needs to carry through the process demonstrating that this is all about the long-term wellbeing of the organisation and its workforce.

If employees have any uncertainty over the future direction of the business, then they will develop their own exit strategy and with it the risk that the best will fly the nest. At best this would hinder the exit, at worst scupper the business. So clear communication with everybody concerned is vital.

A fundamental issue is: who should succeed? And if, after auditing the firm's own talent pool and mapping that against key

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upward as baton passes

positions, the right person, or persons, aren't to be found within the business, then the company needs to recruit them. Recruiting good people always pays dividends and is a key area of importance in succession planning.

Before succession, it's all about transition, and there's a need to actively develop longer-term successors by ensuring their careers progress and the range of work experiences that they, and the business, need for the future.

Fostering a corporate culture, which develops its workforce by sharing key skills, experiences and values, is important for any organisation. Investing time in developing family members, key employees, and management team members, and allowing them to exercise authority and control, will be vital to a successful succession.

With a transition plan and the right people in place, the actual task of selecting a successor becomes much easier. By empowering key members of the business, the selection process is simplified and the owners' exit options are broadened.

Once the decision as to who will succeed is made, the key task for the owner is communicating that plan, not just to the workforce, but beyond the business to customers, suppliers and advisers. This communication gives the successor and their colleagues a clear understanding of the path to the future and the different roles they are going to play in the journey. It also means everyone can focus on setting future goals and objectives for themselves and, importantly, the business.

An owner exiting a business also has signif-

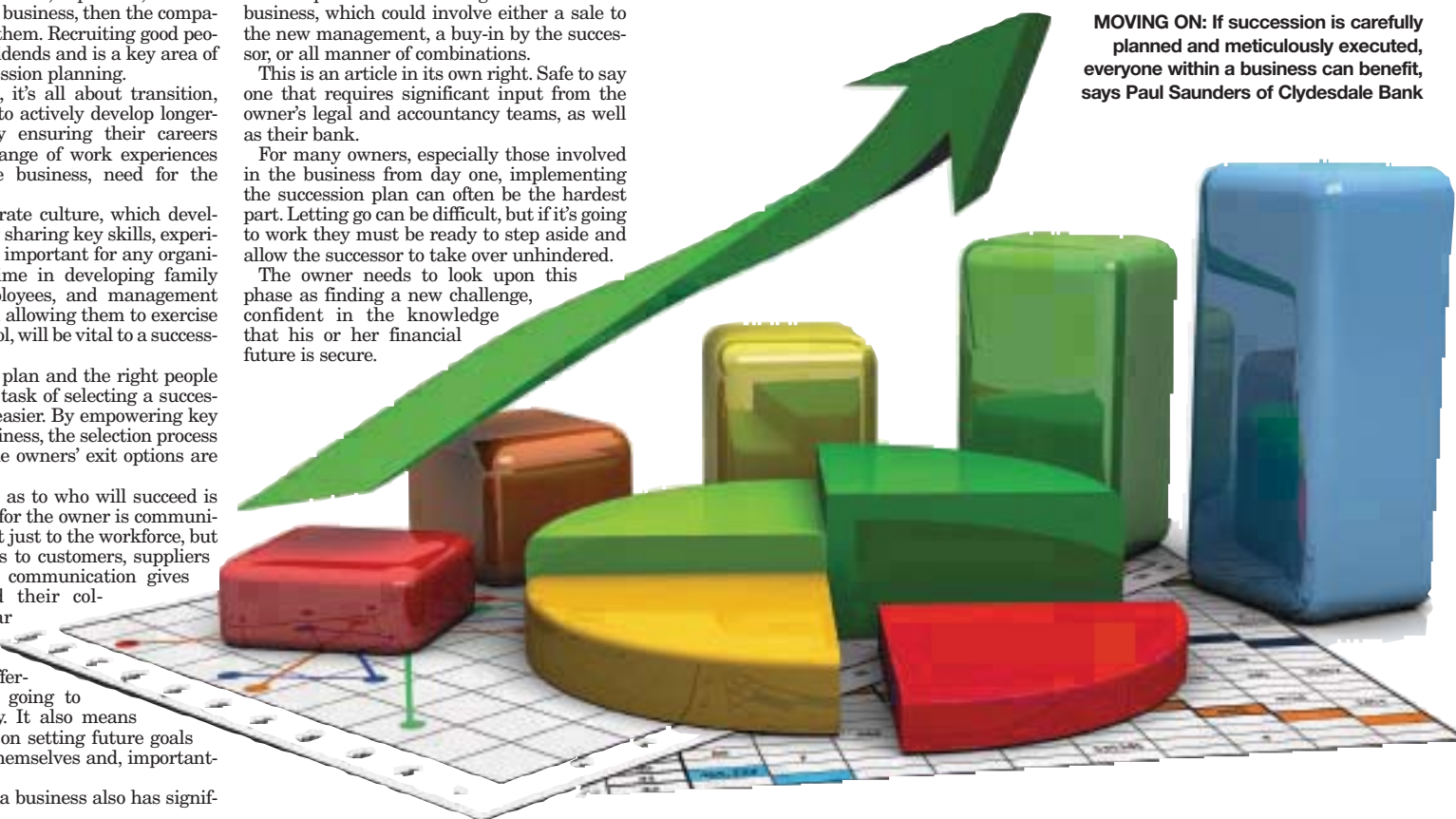
icant implications for the legal structure of a business, which could involve either a sale to the new management, a buy-in by the successor, or all manner of combinations.

This is an article in its own right. Safe to say one that requires significant input from the owner's legal and accountancy teams, as well as their bank.

For many owners, especially those involved in the business from day one, implementing the succession plan can often be the hardest part. Letting go can be difficult, but if it's going to work they must be ready to step aside and allow the successor to take over unhindered.

The owner needs to look upon this phase as finding a new challenge, confident in the knowledge that his or her financial future is secure.

MOVING ON: If succession is carefully planned and meticulously executed, everyone within a business can benefit, says Paul Saunders of Clydesdale Bank



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When trust is

Do you need a written contract to have a legally binding deal? The answer may surprise you, explains **Henar Dyson**, of Tunbridge Wells-based law firm Thomson Snell & Passmore

WHEN is a deal not a deal? Does a handshake or the undertaking of work represent a contract? Or do both sides need to have something in writing, signed and sealed, before it's official?

It's a thorny topic and one which continues to spark debate.

A recent article in The Times newspaper considered whether trust between contracting parties is an effective substitute for a contract.

The reality is that the law will imply contractual terms into any business arrangement, whether or not there is a written document.

There are also circumstances where a written contract is a legal requirement. The question, then, is whether parties can dispense with a fully-negotiated contract, where there is mutual trust.

Even lawyers will agree that contracts can take on a life of their own and become unwieldy. Word processing technology, an explosion of regulation in some areas and an increasingly litigious business environment have been largely responsible for this.

But is a negotiated contract a bad thing? There are good reasons for having one:

- It records what the parties have agreed, helping to avoid future argument;
- It apportions risk, making clear who pays if something goes wrong; and
- It will iron out the uncertainties of the general law position.

This said, there are obvious downsides to an overly-prescriptive contract. The costs of negotiation and dispute resolution can be huge. No contract can legislate for every eventuality, and this can lead to an unexpected result in court if an argument arises over circumstances that are not catered for in the contract.

International contracts present additional difficulties, where lawyers from different legal cultures try to devise a universal legal language. Also, the process of negotiation can result in a loss of trust between the parties.

Why contracts are necessary

Undoubtedly, no business arrangement can succeed without the parties trusting each other. In most cases, nor will it without a contract. There are many reasons for this:

- The basic reasons for negotiating a contract are still valid. This is not a question of lack of trust, but of practicality;
- It takes time to build up the necessary degree of trust, far more time than it takes to negotiate a balanced contract;

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simply not enough...



IT'S A DEAL: A handshake may suffice in smaller organisations, but where a high-value job is at stake, draw up a contract

- Where the power of the parties is mismatched, a negotiated contract will help the weaker party;
- High-level management does not have the time or necessarily the ability to resolve all disputes;
- Shareholders would be unlikely to support the company if they knew how potentially exposed it was.

Whilst contracts are still necessary, the level of detail in them is not always beneficial and

there are circumstances where this can and should be controlled.

For regular arrangements between the same parties, contracts can set out general principles, but need not be overly prescriptive. It is not uncommon for businesses to operate in this way.

For one-off arrangements or very high value transactions, this is not appropriate. The risks and the 'unknowns' are too high and too many. Consider also a smaller organisation, where

management knows and trusts its own staff. In those organisations, there may be scope for trust to replace a negotiated contract. In larger organisations, this is not feasible.

The production of an effective contract need not be time-consuming if clients agree terms before engaging lawyers and set a sensible timetable for concluding negotiations. The mark of a well-negotiated contract is that everyone sleeps well and the contract lives in a drawer, never to be seen again.

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New wheel deals roll in as Scrappage is crushed

By **STEVE LOADER**

SCRAPPAGE may be dead, but keen new car deals live on in a much changed motor trade.

Half of the £2,000-a-time Scrappage grant for new car buyers part exchanging a 10-year-old (or more) banger came from car makers and dealers – some even threw in more cash to sweeten a deal.

It has made even the most conservative car buyer realise that list price didn't have to mean final price and it was worth haggling, especially with dealers just happy to survive the economic downturn.

Scrappage has also affected the used car market, because many so-called gas-guzzling bangers the Government hoped to take off the road were well cared for family motors with plenty of life in them.

Lots of real bangers are still out there, because their cash-strapped owners just can't afford to trade up at all – used or new.

Meanwhile, the cars that should never have gone to the scrapper – and dealers can tell heartbreaking stories of part-exchange Scrappage cars too young to die – were denied a new lease of life and the would-be buyers have been forced to move upwards in the used car market.



TEMPTING DEALS: Chevrolet's new Spark city car offers big car capacity within compact dimensions

This in turn has exacerbated a chronic shortage of used cars now, because fewer new cars were sold once recession loomed three or four years ago.

Prices have soared as a result and new cars start to look better value, especially when certain car makers are happy to 'buy' sales and market share with keen deals and low-rate finance just to keep their plants turning over.

Buyers may also be tempted because they

have cash earning little in a bank account, which could drive a deal on a new car instead. Before taking the plunge though, here are some do's and don'ts:

Don't be afraid to ask for trimmings like a tank of fuel, car mats or further discounts on extras.

Don't buy an unpopular engine or trim combination or a car on 'run-out' where production ceased a while ago – it might be just as thirsty

as your old car and will depreciate badly.

Do pick a model that saves fuel, insurance, road tax and depreciation – it won't get any easier out there.

Don't go for a knee-jerk disposal. A new car might still be expensive, even against running your gas-guzzler for the next three years.

Don't be blinded by tax-exempt diesel eco models – check price, running costs and green credentials against the standard version.

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Price of £6,945 relates to Spark 1.0. Vehicle shown is Spark 1.2 LT. Vehicle shown features metallic paint available at extra cost of £365. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Available on UK supplied vehicles. Prices correct at time of press.
Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO₂ Emissions 119 g/km.

Essential guide to where you can save

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■ Smallbone Interiors in Broadstairs are offering 25 per cent off all Neff appliances

■ Robins and Day Motors in Maidstone are offering MOTs from £29.99, or service and MOT from £119.99

■ Fleecy Lined Wellies are only £29.99 including postage and packing with a KOS Media offer

■ Lexterten Furniture, Westgate on Sea, Thanet are offering £100 off elevating television cabinets

■ Northgate Alfa Car sales in Canterbury is offering fixed price servicing for cars for three years plus gold care for £169

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■ Claim 15 per cent off MOTs at Baileys Nissan in Canterbury

■ Claim a five per cent discount on the hypnotherapy course at Belmont Hypnotherapy in Ramsgate

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TAKE CONTROL: Driving more economically can add to the savings from eco-friendly models like the Vauxhall Insignia ecoFLEX, left, and new MultiAir version of the sporty Alfa Romeo MiTo.

Smarter driving – better saving

DOWNSIZING to a more fuel and tax-efficient car must be just part of your recession-busting motoring plan.

The next stage involves smarter driving and journey planning, and getting fitter by walking and cycling instead of using the car for short journeys – cold engines waste fuel and produce 60 per cent more emissions than warm ones. Short trips also mean more servicing and engine wear. A moped or motorcycle might be a better option. If you must drive, follow these tips from the Institute of Advanced Motorists and RAC Foundation:

- Plan your route to save strain on car and driver. Take the direct route – a sat nav can help – and go off-peak if possible. Commuters should think about car sharing, park and ride

bus schemes or other public transport.

- Have your vehicle serviced regularly.

Neglected engines waste at least 10 per cent more fuel and catalytic converters only clean emissions when properly maintained.

- Check your tyres. Under-inflated tyres wear faster, waste fuel, are dangerous and contribute to a growing environmental problem. Check tyre pressures weekly.

- Obey speed limits to save and stay legal.

Feather the throttle at cruising speed – 56mph uses 25 per cent less fuel than 70mph and a smoother driving style saves fuel.

- Accelerate briskly without racing the engine – pulling away too fast uses up to 60 per cent more fuel. Intelligent gear changes at modest engine speeds can save up to 15 per cent in fuel.

- Reduce drag – remove roof racks and carriers when not in use and keep windows closed

to avoid drag and wasted fuel. Remove unnecessary and heavy boot luggage and wide wheels and tyres that add rolling resistance. Air conditioning costs fuel too, so try to use the fan and vents unassisted.

- Buy green fuel and use less. Look for low-sulphur 'city' diesel or cleaner petrol (low sulphur/aromatics). Consider converting to LPG (liquid petroleum gas) – half the price of petrol and with lower emissions.

- Think ahead – there is no point rushing and then having to brake suddenly.

- Be a tank miser. Why fill the tank to the brim and burn fuel carrying more weight than necessary?

- Stuck in traffic? Turn off the engine after two minutes to save fuel and emissions.

- **For more eco driving tips see Julie Maddocks' online video report at www.yourkenttv.co.uk/community.**

Dark Horses.



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VAUXHALL

Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Astra: urban 12.7 (22.3) – 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) – 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) – 62.8 (4.5), CO2 Emissions 119 – 364 g/km.

Models shown have optional metallic paint available at an additional cost of £295. Prices shown are available on selected Retailer stock only, whilst stocks last and cannot be applied in conjunction with any other offer. *£2000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.03.09 when traded in against a new car subject to conditions. All offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stock. Offers available at participating retailers only. UK, excluded vehicles only. *Incl. £2000 government allowance.

Motoring myths shattered

By **STEVE LOADER**

DON'T be suckered by costly motoring myths, says leading company car operator Lex Autolease.

The company runs some 300,000 vehicles for UK companies and has gathered driver feedback showing many bad habits derived from popular myths. The Lex myths hitlist includes:

- **Premium fuel is good for your car now and again**

It is only suitable for high performance cars – the higher cost is repaid by better mpg. Drivers using non-performance cars should stick to ordinary unleaded and diesel.

Another myth suggests supermarket fuel is poorer quality than that from oil companies' forecourts, but they often come from the same source, so you're paying more for the brand and any additives.

- **It's best to fit your new tyres to the front axle**

Actually, they should be fitted to the rear. More grip on the rear axle improves stability on slippery roads and could prevent a spin.

Drivers are also more used to worn tyres on the front, because most modern cars are front-wheel-drive and wear front treads faster than the rears. Switching part-worn rears to the front maintains a familiar balance.

- **Allow the car to warm up before driving off**

The engine will warm up faster, use less fuel and pump out less CO2 if you drive off immediately, rather than leave it to idle for a while. In winter, this also helps the car heater warm faster, though windscreens must be fully defrosted before setting off.

- **Running the tank near to empty helps to clean it**

Fuel tanks do not self-clean. It is more likely that you will misjudge your next fill up and risk seizing the engine or other components; driving with little or no fuel can be almost as damaging to a vehicle as putting in the wrong fuel. Fill up as quick-



HIT AND MYTH: The big-selling British-built Qashqai has killed Nissan's old reputation for boring cars

ly as possible when your warning light appears.

- **Filling up slows down your car**

Partially true. A heavy fuel load impacts upon fuel efficiency and braking distances, but acceleration and top speed is barely compromised by a full tank.

- **No-claims protection insurance protects my premium if I have a crash**

Standard insurances only protect the discount you would have received at the end of a claims-free year. If you have a

claim, insurance companies are liable to increase your overall premium, despite having a no-claims protection policy – you are now a classed as an increased insurance risk. Admittedly, the company has a vested interest in the final point:

- **Leasing is more expensive than buying**

Many businesses and motorists fail to properly calculate the true cost of ownership. List price alone is a red herring and ignores true running costs: finance, depreciation, maintenance and insurance. All such costs can be better captured and budgeted through a lease deal.

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MOTORS NEWS



Saab is bjorn again by Dutch saviours Spyker

REPORTS of Saab's rescue from shut-down had been long on Abba-esque 'Bjorn again' headlines and short on how the brand would advance in its new partnership with Dutch supercar maker Spyker.

But production has re-started at Saab's Trollhattan plant and the first vehicle off the line was an all-new 9-5 model; UK order books are open with prices from £26,495 with a generous standard spec. It was followed by a 9-3 Convertible – the other model tipped for a crucial role in the Saab revival.



Peugeot lion ready to go hunting for Audi TT

PEUGEOT launches its stunning new RCZ sports car in May, to take on yet undercut Audi's TT sports car icon.

It is a dream car at a near everyday price, selling in the UK for just £20,450 with lots of kit – Audi's cheapest TT is £6,000 more with rather less standard equipment. A classy interior highlights how far Peugeot's cabin trimming has advanced recently and the RCZ also draws attention to the French lion brand's ambitions to scale global motor rankings over the next few years.



New city car receives A1 for effort and style

AUDI is opening order books in May for its compact yet sleek and sporty three-door A1, targeting premium city car buyers.

Priced from £13,000, it comes with alloys, air con and electronic stability control, highlighting that people still want image and comfort even when downsizing. The A1 will be offered with petrol and diesel powertrains and is claimed to carry four people and their luggage.

However, it has to be more profitable for Audi than the innovative, but loss-making A2 of a decade ago.



COST CUTTER: Volvo's DRIVE offers low emissions and the Swedish firm's Start/Stop system which cuts the engine at lights or slow traffic and then fires up as the driver moves off

Start/Stop but it's all go with Volvo's eco saloon

ROAD TEST VOLVO S40 DRIVE

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

aerodynamics and tweaked powertrains and Volvo says it has even reviewed and cut energy used in production and recycling of its cars.

For an extra £250 on the S40 saloon line-up you can also specify the Swedes' Start/Stop system, which cuts the engine at the lights or when making slow progress in traffic and then smoothly fires it up again as the driver makes to move off – no thought is required.

Official figures show the system can boost average fuel use by as much as 10mpg above the standard DRIVE equivalent, which already delivers an impressive 62.8; the marque does not now bother with a 'standard trim' 1.6 diesel, which is a) as things should be now and b) stops motoring hacks highlighting how much a 'greener' model costs compared with a standard car. Start/Stop also knocks emissions back from 119g/km of CO2 to 104.

Rather than a hair shirt option, the DRIVE is a highly flexible family car and a driving pleasure too, despite revisions to the 108bhp diesel/six-speed gearbox powertrain and low rolling resistance tyres.

It even looks good, with Volvo's now distinctive scalloped rear wings and some smoothed alloys that further aid aerodynamics.



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Steering, Elec
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CITYCARS

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carsfor**kent.co.uk**

FIAT PANDA



FIAT'S Panda mini marvel donated the chassis and running gear for the Fiat 500 cult car, underlining corporate confidence in the oily bits and bearing out high marks in reliability surveys. Nor should we forget the Panda is a former European Car of the Year award winner; it offers five doors, acres of space, cut-price running costs and a decent drive and there are even diesel and 4x4 options – though both of those command a used market premium.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★☆
Looks and image	★★★★☆
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★☆
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★☆
Quality	★★★★☆

CHEVROLET MATIZ



INCH for inch, the Matiz was state-of-the-art in terms of five-door compact city car design when it arrived as a Daewoo in 1998. Early 800cc versions were gutless and rather noisy on the motorway though, so go for the 1.0-litre engine if possible. Otherwise, the Matiz is a frugal and well-equipped easily-parked car for local driving and surprisingly spacious and versatile, with a comfortable ride. Aesthetically, the original design is better than the 'puffed up' facelift version.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

KIA PICANTO



KOREA'S Kia has become one of the fastest growing car brands in the UK by adding design and customer appeal to its reputation for value. The five-door Picanto highlights this rapid revolution, with its cheeky looks and generous spec; even entry level models come with steering wheel adjustment, remote central locking, ABS, front electric windows, split folding seats and a radio/CD player. Insurance is also cheap, all engines average well over 50mpg and used examples are plentiful.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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NUMBERS TO HELP YOU DRIVE
A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE NUMBER



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FIAT 500 1.2 POP S/S	47 Monthly payments	£ 128.87
On the road £8000	Optional final payment (inc. £285 fee)	£ 3127.00
Deposit £1900	Total amount payable	£11388.87
Balance financed £7400	Typical APR	9.8%

J G Burgess & Company

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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500 1.2 Pop: mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions: Urban 44.1 (6.4) Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) Combined 55.4 (5.1). CO2 119 g/km.

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PROPERTY NEWS

Lenders ready to be flexible as confidence rises

A GREATER amount of confidence in the property market is leading to increased flexibility among mortgage lenders, according to analysts.

First-time buyers could find higher loan-to-values being offered, said Ben Wilkie, editor of What Mortgage.

Bigger banks are likely to be the ones opening up their finances, he suggested, as they want to get back into the property market to boost their profile.

"It really should help first-time buyers because even to get a ten per cent deposit is hard enough – and to get any higher than that is outrageous for many people," he said.

For first-time buyers really struggling to save money, the expert predicted that a 95 per cent loan-to-value mortgage could be on offer "fairly soon".

Figures from Moneyfacts have revealed that 1,798 mortgage deals were on offer at the beginning of March requiring deposits of up to 40 per cent, up more than six per cent on the previous month.

Insurance vital for self-builders

PROFESSIONAL indemnity insurance is vital for those dealing with architects as it protects home-owners from the costs incurred from setting right any mistakes, experts say.

Julian Owen, chairman of the Association of Self Build Architects, said that it was rare for things to go seriously awry, but when they did the costs could be significant.

He said: "It is not like you can put that down to experience – this is your house we are talking about, so you have got to have that security."

Mr Owen advised home-owners to agree a set budget with the architect prior to the work beginning, so that any later disputes were avoided.

If this early agreement is made, then it is up to the architect to stick to budget or call the homeowner when it is being exceeded.

ASBA is Britain's biggest network of practising architects specialising in the design of individual houses, refurbishments and extensions.



Stamp duty cut brings headache for solicitors

■ BY NICK AMES

FIRST-time buyers have received a leg up on to the property ladder for the next two years as the stamp-duty threshold has been increased from £125,000 to £250,000.

Chancellor Alistair Darling said that the decision to raise the threshold for first-time buyers would result in nine in ten not paying any stamp duty.

He added that the increased allowance was to be funded by an increased stamp-duty level to five per cent from four per cent on properties worth more than £1 million.

The stamp-duty holiday is only available to first-time buyers.

Experts say this may cause difficulties for conveyance solicitors responsible for levying the tax.

There is expected to be an element of self-declaration, which will then have to be verified by checking the Land Registry.

Mike Warburton, of accountants Grant Thornton, said: "This is the first time that a tax has been based on personal circumstances of a first-time buyer rather than the value of the property."

"This will create a minefield for solicitors who will have to check if the house-buyers have bought property before."

If a property is being bought by more than

one individual, all of the buyers have to be first-time buyers to qualify for the stamp-duty holiday.

"The move will undoubtedly help many people achieve home-ownership and we need only look at the recent extension to £175,000 for proof of this."

"Of course, the devil is in the detail and policing this may prove to be a tricky task," said Drew Wotherspoon, of mortgage-broker John Charcol.

The news will boost the market as analysts say some UK residents now reach their 30s before they can afford to get on the ladder.

The average person struggles to find the required deposit, which can now hit 25 per cent of the house value, said Jane Marr, director at the Little House Company.

"I can foresee the situation where people in their 20s do not consider home-ownership and that it will only become a realistic goal once in your 30s as your pay increases and you have had longer to save," she said.

Figures from Rightmove revealed that the proportion of first-time buyers looking to purchase fell to 25.8 per cent, the second successive quarterly fall.

In a healthy housing market, this figure would be expected to be about 40 per cent.

The number of first-time buyers has slumped in recent years.

In 1999, more than 590,000 people took their first step on to the property ladder, but by the peak of the market in 2007, the figure had fallen to 357,000. Last year, it was just 198,000.



BUDGET: Chancellor Alistair Darling cut stamp duty

How to sell a home and help Demelza

ESTATE agents Grey Fox have gone dotty over the Easter period – and all for a very good cause.

The offices in Rainham and Walderslade are backing Demelza House – the charity which offers care for terminally ill children and their families.

Staff have been wearing colourful shirts with the slogan "Grey Fox has gone dotty" on the front and "for Demelza" on the back.

Company managing director Steve O'Neill is a long term supporter of the cause and has got his staff equally enthusiastic about supporting an appeal which makes the lives of unfortunate children so much better as well as providing much needed respite for families and carers.

Staff went out of the office for a quick trip round the local villages to raise cash and there was also a massive incentive for homebuyers who wanted to make a donation and who signed up

with the agents - £500 of the required fee went to Demelza.

Negotiator Lucy Pickering said: "We all went dotty in the way we dressed. We had red tee shirts on publicising our appeal and that helped when we went around the village."

"Everyone seems to want to help Demelza."

"I think we collected about £70 but how much else has been raised, by people signing up, or collections made by staff from our other branch isn't clear yet."

"But it seems like we shall be continuing this all throughout the Easter weekend."

Lucy said the charity was extremely well supported by staff at the estate agents.

"Demelza is such a worthwhile cause," she said. "It can make such a difference to both children and their families."

"It is a cause we are very pleased to be able to support."



FOXY STAFF: Estate agents supporting children's hospice Demelza

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Higham
• 5 BEDROOM DETACHED HOME
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION



• SHOWER ROOM
• 2 EN-SUITES
• 1 BEDROOM DETACHED ANNEX
• COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS

£625,000

REF: Prestige_59893S



Walderslade
• 5 BED DETACHED HOUSE
• 2 BEDROOM DETACHED ANNEXE
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
• EN-SUITE TO MASTER



• SUN TERRACE
• UTILITY ROOM
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• SHOWER ROOM

£619,995

REF: Prestige_59894S



Isle of Harty
• 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
• APPROX 2.5 ACRES
• PADDOCKS
• 2 RECEPTIONS



• RIVER VIEWS
• STABLE BLOCK
• STORE BARN
• CELLAR

OIEO £550,000

REF: Prestige_59895S



Walderslade
• EXECUTIVE DETACHED HOUSE
• 4 BEDROOMS
• VILLAGE LOCATION
• EN-SUITE



• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• STUDY
• DOUBLE GARAGE

£525,000

REF: Prestige_59897S



East Farleigh
• 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• POTENTIAL FOR ANNEXE
• DOUBLE GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING



• CONSERVATORY
• FRONT, SIDE & REAR GARDENS
• VERSATILE ACCOMMODATION
• VILLAGE LOCATION

£510,000

REF: Prestige_62058S



Walderslade
• DETACHED HOUSE
• 4 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• QUIET GATED DEVELOPMENT



• EN-SUITE
• POPULAR LOCATION
• DOUBLE GARAGE
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£365,000

REF: Prestige_60051S



Chatham
• DETACHED HOUSE
• 5 BEDROOMS
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
• EN-SUITE AND DRESSING ROOM



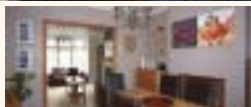
• DETACHED GARAGE
• SUITABLE FOR OFFICE / HOME WORKING
• SPACIOUS THROUGHOUT
• CLOSE TO AMENITIES

OIEO £350,000

REF: Prestige_60048S



Strood
• 4 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
• ENSUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM



• FAMILY BATHROOM
• CONVERTED CELLAR
• WELL PRESENTED
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDENS

£325,000

REF: Prestige_61992S



Wigmore
• 3 BEDROOM DETACHED
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
• INDIVIDUAL DESIGN
• LOUNGE - DINER / STUDY



• DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• GOOD SIZE GARDEN
• GARAGE & DRIVEWAY
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£325,000

REF: Prestige_60057S



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Rochester
• 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
• 17FT LOUNGE
• MODERN KITCHEN/DINER
• 15FT CONSERVATORY

£195,000



• GROUND FLOOR SHOWER ROOM
• 1ST FLOOR MODERN BATHROOM
• GOOD SIZE GARDEN
• GARAGE EN-BLOC TO REAR

REF: Walderslade_628045



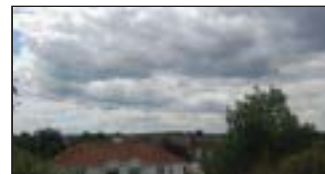
Allhallows
• PARK HOME
• 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• LOUNGE
• FITTED KITCHEN

£120,000



• OFF ROAD PARKING
• RANGE OF OUTBUILDINGS
• TERRACED GARDEN
• ESTUARY VIEWS

REF: Walderslade_601955



Strood
• PLOT OF LAND
• PLANNING PERMISSION
• POTENTIAL 3/4 BEDROOM EXECUTIVE HOME
• POPULAR LOCATION

REF: Walderslade_601115



Sittingbourne
• LINK DETACHED
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• MODERN KITCHEN

Guide Price £200,000 - £220,000



• EN-SUITE
• LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN
• GARAGE
• INTERNAL VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

REF: Rainham_611315



Wigmore
• 4 BEDROOM CHALET BUNGALOW
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CONSERVATORY
• DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM

Guide Price £325,000 - £335,000



• UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
• CORNER POSITION
• POPULAR LOCATION
• GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY TO REAR

REF: Rainham_601535



Wigmore
• SEMI DETACHED HOME
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CLOAKROOM

REF: Rainham_624275



Walderslade
• 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN/DINER
• SPLIT LEVEL LOUNGE
• MODERN BATHROOM

£229,995



• GARAGE/DRIVEWAY
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDENS
• CLOSE TO AMENITIES

REF: Walderslade_626105



Gillingham
• EDWARDIAN CHARACTER PROPERTY
• 3/4 BEDROOMS
• 2 FURTHER LOFT ROOMS
• 2 / 3 RECEPTION RECEPTIONS

Price Range £275,000 - £295,000



• SOME ORIGINAL FEATURES
• LARGE GARDEN
• VIEWS OVER GOLF COURSE
• POPULAR LOCATION

REF: Rainham_616425



Cliffe
• NEW PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT
• 4/5 DETACHED EXECUTIVE HOMES
• 6 PLOTS AVAILABLE
• GAMES ROOMS/FAMILY ROOMS

REF: Walderslade_609925



Rochester
• 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CONSERVATORY

£248,000



• GARAGE
• DRIVEWAY
• SOUGHT AFTER LOCATION
• MUST BE SEEN

REF: Walderslade_633765



Rainham
• 3 BEDROOM DETACHED
• 2/3 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CONSERVATORY
• SEMI RURAL LOCATION

£270,000



• LARGE GARDEN
• DRIVE FOR SEVERAL VEHICLES
• COUNTRYSIDE VIEWS
• DOUBLE GLAZING

REF: Rainham_605915



nr Rochester
• 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
• LOUNGE
• KITCHEN/DINER
• CONSERVATORY OVERLOOKING GARDEN

REF: Walderslade_599125



Downsview
• 4 BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE
• REFITTED KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM
• 18FT CONSERVATORY
• 3 RECEPTION ROOMS

£270,000



• EN-SUITE TO MASTER BEDROOM
• FAMILY BATHROOM
• GARAGE & AMPLE PARKING
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

REF: Walderslade_600915



Rochester
• DETACHED HOUSE
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CLOAKROOM

Guide Price £310,000 - £330,000



• UTILITY ROOM
• MATURE GARDEN
• DRIVE FOR MANY CARS
• MUST BE SEEN

REF: Walderslade_636835



Chatham
• STARTER HOME
• 1 DOUBLE BEDROOM
• 1 RECEPTION ROOM
• DOUBLE GLAZING

£112,000

REF: Walderslade_599475



Rainham
• 4 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED
• 19FT REFITTED KITCHEN
• 2/3 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CONSERVATORY

£275,000



• EN SUITE
• CLOAKROOM
• GOOD SIZE GARDEN
• GARAGE AND DRIVE

REF: Rainham_603545



Wigmore
• 4 BEDROOM DETACHED
• GEORGIAN STYLE
• CLOAKROOM
• REFITTED KITCHEN

OIEO £375,000



• EN SUITE
• LOUNGE
• GARAGE AND DRIVE
• CONSERVATORY

REF: Rainham_611585



Strood
• 3 BEDROOM SEMI
• LOUNGE
• DETACHED GARAGE
• MODERN KITCHEN

£225,000

REF: Walderslade_601065



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01634 226800



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Chatham
• 1 BEDROOM 2ND FLOOR APARTMENT
• ENTRANCE HALL
• LOUNGE
• MODERN KITCHEN & BATHROOM

OIEO £85,000

REF: Walderslade_60533S



• DOUBLE BEDROOM
• ALLOCATED PARKING
• NO FORWARD CHAIN
• CALL TO VIEW



Gillingham
• DETACHED BUNGALOW
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• DOWNSTAIRS WET ROOM

Guide Price £275,000 £300,000

REF: Rainham_61693S



• KITCHEN WITH SEPARATE UTILITY ROOM
• UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
• OFF ROAD PARKING
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED



Rochester
• 3 BEDROOM SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
• 17FT LOUNGE
• MODERN KITCHEN/DINER
• 15FT CONSERVATORY

£195,000

REF: Walderslade_62804S



Rainham
• 4 BEDROOM EXTENDED END TERRACE
• LOUNGE
• FURTHER RECEPTION ROOM
• KITCHEN DINER

OIEO £210,000

REF: Rainham_60293S



• FAMILY BATHROOM
• EN SUITE
• WALKING DISTANCE TO STATION
• GARAGE



Chatham
• 2 BEDROOM TERRACE HOUSE
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CELLAR
• 1ST FLOOR BATHROOM (OFF BEDROOM)

£90,000

REF: Walderslade_62556S



• REAR GARDEN
• IN NEED OF MODERNISATION
• FULLY DOUBLE GLAZED
• NO FORWARD CHAIN



Isle Of Sheppey
PRICE RANGE £240,000 - £250,000
• 3 BEDROOM DETACHED
• KITCHEN / DINER
• CONSERVATORY
• PARTIAL SEAVIEW TO REAR

REF: Rainham_63363S



Chatham
• SEMI DETACHED BUNGALOW
• 2 BEDROOMS
• LOUNGE / DINER
• ENCLOSED REAR GARDEN

£155,000

REF: Walderslade_60192S



• DOUBLE GLAZING
• CENTRAL HEATING
• GARAGE
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED



Rainham
• TERRACED HOUSE
• 2 BEDROOMS
• 1 RECEPTION ROOM
• KITCHEN / DINER

Guide Price £150,000 - £160,000

REF: Rainham_61622S



• UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
• LOW MAINTENANCE REAR GARDEN
• GARAGE EN BLOC TO REAR
• POPULAR AREA



Wayfield
• SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
• 3/4 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• 1/2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• NO CHAIN

£175,000

REF: Walderslade_62284S



Gillingham
• END OF TERRACE
• 2 DOUBLE BEDROOMS
• LOUNGE
• DINER

OIEO £150,000

REF: Rainham_60839S



• CLOAKROOM
• ALLOCATED PARKING
• RIVERSIDE LOCATION
• INTERNAL VIEWING ERCOMMENDED



Walderslade
• TERRACED HOUSE
• 2 BEDROOMS
• 1 RECEPTION ROOM
• OPEN PLAN KITCHEN

£139,995

REF: Walderslade_60121S



• 1ST FLOOR MODERN BATHROOM
• ALLOCATED PARKING
• CLOSE TO AMENITIES
• IDEAL FOR 1ST TIME BUYER



Hempstead
Price Range £210,000 £230,000
• 3 BEDROOM DETACHED
• CORNER PLOT
• LOUNGE / DINER
• CLOAKROOM / UTILITY ROOM

REF: Rainham_60149S



Walderslade
• 2 BEDROOM HOUSE
• 1 RECEPTION ROOM
• MODERN FITTED KITCHEN
• FRONT AND REAR GARDENS

OIEO £149,995

REF: Walderslade_60118S



• CONSERVATORY
• GARAGE TO REAR
• CUL-DE-SAC POSITION
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED



Hempstead
• 2 BEDROOM END TERRACE
• KITCHEN
• LOUNGE DINER
• DOUBLE BEDROOMS

OIEO £154,995

REF: Rainham_61882S



• LANDSCAPED GARDEN
• GARAGE
• DOUBLE GLAZING
• POPULAR LOCATION



Gillingham
• 3 DOUBLE BEDROOM TERRACE
• EXTENDED LOUNGE DINER
• CONSERVATORY
• FAMILY BATHROOM

REF: Rainham_60133S



Chatham
• SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
• 3 BEDROOMS
• LOUNGE
• DINER

OIEO £150,000

REF: Walderslade_61006S



• CUL-DE-SAC POSITION
• NO FORWARD CHAIN
• POPULAR LOCATION
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED



Newington
• GEORGIAN COTTAGE
• 2 BEDROOMS
• COUNTRY STYLE KITCHEN
• LOUNGE WITH EXPOSED CHIMNEY BREAST

Guide Price £125,000 - £135,000

REF: Rainham_60003S



• CELLAR AND LEAN TO
• PARKING BAY
• NO CHAIN
• INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED



Wigmore
Guide Price £250,000 £275,000
• SEMI DETACHED HOME
• 3 BEDROOMS
• 2 RECEPTION ROOMS
• CLOAKROOM

REF: Rainham_62427S

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- Garden

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Rochester

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- Family room, integral garage

£245,000

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Hoo

- 3 bedroom bungalow, Lounge, dining room
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- Bathroom off road parking and garage

OIEO £215,000

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Chatham

- 3 bedroom townhouse
- Flexibility of layout offering 4 bedrooms
- Instead of 3 reception rooms, no chain

£154,950

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Rainham

- 3 bedroom terrace house
- Garage en bloc. Well presented
- Convenient for commuters

OIEO £142,500

CALL OUR RAINHAM OFFICE 01634 374953



Rochester

- Purpose built two bedroom
- ground floor flat
- garage, No chain

£94,995

CALL OUR ROCHESTER OFFICE 01634 812697



Hoo

- NO FORWARD CHAIN
- 3 bedroom semi detached
- Lounge, fully fitted kitchen, conservatory

£230,000

CALL OUR STROOD OFFICE 01634 715401



Rainham

- 3 bedroom extended family home
- cloakroom, large lounge, kitchen
- dining room and bathroom

OIEO £189,995

CALL OUR RAINHAM OFFICE 01634 374953



Chatham

- Three bedroom terrace
- Good sized rooms
- Central Chatham area. No forward chain

OIEO £145,000

CALL OUR CHATHAM OFFICE 01634 843277



Gillingham

- NO FORWARD CHAIN
- Two bedroom terrace house
- Two reception rooms, double glazing

£100,000

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Gillingham

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- Lounge conservatory, bathroom
- Private rear garden in need of improvement

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Gillingham



£135,000

Semi detached property. C/heating, d/glazing, gardens. Kitchen, lounge. Three bedrooms & bathroom.

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Asking Price £139,995

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Gillingham



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Strood



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HLTA English & Humanities

KS6 Pts 17-20 £18,471 - £20,262
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The postholder must have experience of working with children of relevant age, must possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills and have the ability to work as a member of a team and on their own initiative.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to promoting equality of opportunity, celebrating diversity and to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

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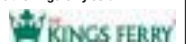
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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Beauty/Holistic Therapy

Ref: P0164

Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)
18.5 Hours per week

Medway

We are looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty
Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to
full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant
vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a
teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Child Care

Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)

Medway

We are looking for a knowledgeable and experienced candidate to deliver
CACHE Child Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidate
will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in
their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant
vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a
teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Sociology

Ref: P0322

Salary: £22,993 - £27,881 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway/Maidstone

The College is looking for an excellent candidate to participate in the
delivery of A' level, YUP and Access to HE courses. The ideal candidate will
have experience of teaching / training in an FE environment and will have up
to date and sound working knowledge of level 3 study. The successful
candidate will have obtained a degree in Sociology and hold, or be willing to
work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Plumbing and Heating

Ref: P0691

Salary: £28,463 - £32,251 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to deliver Plumbing,
Heating and Gas programmes across a range of qualifications including the
new Diplomas. The successful candidate will show a sound commitment to
improving classroom delivery, classroom management and Health and
Safety. Good IT Skills and the ability to work within a team are essential. The
applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have,
or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Construction

Ref: P0198

Salary: 28,463 - £32,251 per annum
(dependant on qualifications and experience)
Medway

The primary role of the post holder will be to teach on and participate in the
development of construction related programmes across the Faculty. The
appointee will contribute to the delivery of Entry/First/National/Higher
National, Professional courses and short courses for industry as appropriate.

The ability to teach in one of the main Construction /Civil Engineering
disciplines would be advantageous. The successful candidate will hold or be
willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Technician in Hair and Beauty

Ref: P0277

Salary: £14,588 - £17,000 per annum
Medway

We are looking for an organised candidate to assist the smooth running of
the Hair and Beauty department. Responsibilities will include providing
technical support to staff and students and setting-up the classrooms as
required. Experience in the industry would be advantageous.

Closing date: Wednesday 21st April 2010

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the
application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your
application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this
commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For
individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication
with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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- Co-ordinating the development of Safeguarding policies.
- Communicating with, and training, IPS staff and associates.

The successful applicant will work closely with the Senior Management Team to further develop the necessary quality expertise and will be capable of drafting accurate and precise documents and working collaboratively. Good IT skills will be required as will self motivation and the ability to maintain accurate and timely records.

To apply, please provide a CV plus accompanying letter explaining your suitability for the role to Michael Henderson at the address below by the closing date of 14th April 2010.

IPS is an equal opportunities employer; we welcome applicants from all sectors of the community, including minority groups, and we are committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults

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Dawn to Dusk Day Nursery Swanley Ltd a well established private company and also operating an Out of School Club with a further branch in Maidstone, have the following vacancies.

Level II Nursery Nurse

We are looking for someone with a positive attitude who can work well as part of a team. Full support for training towards level III, will be given - 40hrs a week.

After School Club Assistant - P/t

This position is to work in our Dusksies Schools Out Club. Appropriate experience is required, a play work certificate preferred but not essential as training can be given. This is a part time position, Monday - Friday - Hours to be agreed.

To arrange an interview
please telephone Janice Elliott on
01322 660330

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Grade: **C1 - Salary: £16,830 - £22,221 per annum**
Hours: **37 hours per week - 8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, 36 minute lunch break**
Location: **Strood Academy, Carnation Road, Rochester, Kent, ME2 2SX**
Tel: **01634 717121**
e-mail: **info@stroodacademy.org**

We are looking to appoint as soon as possible a Data Manager to create oversee and develop the Academy's use of data to help drive Academy improvement. You will have excellent communication, numerical and organisational skills. You will also have a strong working knowledge of a range of ICT software including Microsoft Office, SIMS and in particular Excel.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

To apply, visit www.stroodacademy.org and download an application form and job description and find out further information about us.

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Interviews: **w/c 19th April 2010**



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Ref: 691/E
Maidstone

Working as part of a very busy Accounts team, you will be responsible for five staff in the payments and cashier sections of the department. You will manage the Group's supplies, services and cashing functions, ensuring that financial records are continually accurate. You will ensure that appropriate control procedures are in place for cash handling and review compliance of these.

With specific responsibility for preparing the statutory accounts for subsidiary companies you will assist with the production of the group statutory accounts and hence have a sound knowledge of Accounting Standards. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential.

Capital Accountant
£33,000

Ref: 692/E
Maidstone

Working within the Accounts Department, you will control all property and other capital accounting transactions, manage day to day cash flow and ensure correct accounting of interest and other loan payments. You will be responsible for producing monthly cash flow forecast reports and other key management information quickly and accurately to enable effective management decision making.

You will take a proactive part in the financial appraisal of new business including costs modelling for tenders, assessing and reporting on the impact on the budget and financial business plan. Good verbal and written communication skills are essential, as you will need to communicate with internal and external staff members and other agencies.

mcch also have a **Finance Officer** role based in Maidstone at £16,607, if you require further information on the post please contact us. **Ref: 699/E**

How to apply.....

For an application form and job description email jobs@mcch.co.uk or apply on line at www.mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on **0845 600 1552**. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.



learning disability mental health autism



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Thong Lane, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 4LF

Headteacher: **Miss R. Hughes** B.Ed Hons

Tel: **01474 566552** Fax: **01474 537405**

email: school@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk>

Inclusion Manager

Required for April 2010

37 hour per week (full time)

40 weeks per year (term time plus 2 weeks)

KCC Salary Scheme 7 (points 20-24) £20,262 to £23,053 pa

Pro rata to £17,486.10 - £19,894.73 pa

Lunch duty assistance 30 mins per day

Meetings as and when required after school

We wish to appoint an experienced and dedicated member of staff to the new permanent position of Inclusion Manager as part of the Beehive, Learning Support staff structure. You will be the key administrative, well-fare and progress development support for students with Social Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD), line managing a SEBD LSA and be directly line managed by our Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion. The successful applicant must:

- Have strong interpersonal skills and demonstrate a high level of emotional intelligence to communicate effectively in sometimes challenging situations;
- be able to liaise and communicate confidently with outside agencies, parents, staff and students;
- be confident to work independently and multi-task;
- have a cheerful disposition, positive outlook, show confidence and contribute ideas to work within a team
- Be a creative worker to proactively develop strategies to support SEBD students;
- lead and manage all aspects of monitoring progress using data effectively and implement strategies to ensure achievement of identified SEBD students;
- be a positive role model supporting students with SEBD issues;
- be highly organised and able to manage your time well, when juggling a range of tasks.

After 4 years of innovative improvement, Thamesview has now been awarded 'Good' (2) by Ofsted (in February 2009) for our 'Overall Effectiveness'.

All staff will be given a laptop in the new school, and we have a generous CPD commitment to support staff improving their skills across a range of aspects.

We are in the current wave of Building Schools for the Future (BSF), so have a brand new school due to open in July 2010 with incredible facilities for indoor and outdoor learning. A purpose built inclusion area is currently being designed to replace our existing Beehive Unit.

CV's without an application form will not be accepted. You will be expected to submit a letter outlining your reasons for wanting this position with your application, together with evidence of how you have developed your own skills in readiness for this position. We are looking for the right person in this role, so if you think that you have the skills or the potential to put your stamp on this important role in the Inclusion structure then we want you to apply.

If you think this sounds exciting, please telephone: ext 208 or email k.allen@thamesview.kent.sch.uk for further information. Details are also available on our web site: www.thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 20th April 2010

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students. Appointment to this post will require an Enhanced Disclosure via the Criminal Records Bureau. Thamesview School operates a non-smoking policy



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EXIT: Brad Smith's points haul could not prevent play-off defeat

Crusaders crash out of play-offs once again

**Mansfield Giants 84
Medway Park Crusaders 67**

FOR the second successive season Medway Park Crusaders fell at the first play-off hurdle as they lost at Mansfield Giants on Saturday.

The Crusaders led at half-time but were unable to prevent an onslaught from the home side in the final two quarters, eventually losing by 17 points. It marked an end to the campaign in the last eight, the same stage they exited against Birmingham Athletics last season.

BASKETBALL

Just making the play-offs was some achievement for James Vear's side, who began the season with six straight league defeats. A strong finish got them into the post-season and their reward for sixth place in Division Two was a trip to the Giants, who finished third.

The Nottinghamshire side won both games between the sides in the regular season, but the scores were tight enough to suggest the Crusaders had a chance to progress.

Their preparations were hit by the absence of point guard Greg Currat, who returned to Switzerland for a family emergency.

The Giants began the game well and built a six-point lead by the end of the first quarter. The advantage was quickly eroded as Brad Smith, who notched 27 points in the game, led the Crusaders back into the game, giving the visitors a 36-32 lead at half-time.

It proved to be the highlight for Vear's side, whose season came to a shuddering halt as the Giants hit back, outscoring their opponents 52-31 in the second-half to sweep into the semi-finals.

ICE HOCKEY

Pictures DAVID TREVALION



BRACE: Nicky Lewis scored twice for the Mos

Mos outshine Stars in bid for promotion

Oxford City Stars 2 Invicta Dynamos 7

NICKY Lewis and Andy Smith scored two apiece as Invicta Dynamos began their play-off campaign with a comfortable win away to Oxford City Stars.

The victory kept the club's hopes of adding the play-off title to their league championship alive ahead of a double-header this weekend.

A disagreement with the English Ice Hockey Association left the Mos furious at having to forfeit their first game of the play-offs and they travelled to Oxford determined to make amends.

The visitors got off to a dream start as Lewis opened the scoring inside the first minute, but it turned out to be the only strike of the first period.

The visitors seized control of the game in the second frame, with Elliot Andrews doubling their lead three minutes after the interval. Andy Smith and AJ Smith were also on target to give the Mos a commanding 4-0 advantage heading into the third period.

Momentum

Oxford threatened to set up a tense finale as they pulled a goal back early on, but the Mos hit back to halt the momentum with two goals in 30 seconds. Peter Vaisanen made it 5-1 and Andy Smith almost immediately grabbed a second.

The Stars added another consolation, before Lewis wrapped up a satisfying victory with the final goal of the game.

The victory meant the Mos can still reach the play-off final despite the forfeited game. Victories in their final two fixtures this weekend would see them reach the showpiece later this month.

While they will start hot favourites to beat Oxford at the Gillingham Ice Bowl next Sunday, the challenge comes 24 hours earlier when they visit a Bracknell Hornets side who beat them in both their trips to Berkshire this season.

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LAUNCH: Medway Park gets its first big test this week as it hosts athletes from across the world for the Modern Pentathlon World Cup, which starts tomorrow



Pictures DIGITALSCAPE

New centre host to world's finest modern pentathletes

MODERN PENTATHLON

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

MEDWAY Park hosts its first big sporting event this week as teams from around the globe come together to compete at the Modern Pentathlon World Cup.

The £11.1 million project was only completed a fortnight ago, but preparations are well under way to construct grandstands and turn the inside of the athletics track into a showjumping arena.

The event itself is a sellout, with more than 1,000 tickets for each of the two finals days this weekend snapped up in advance.

The four-day competition begins tomorrow and is part of a five-round World Cup series. It will see the best modern pentathletes from 27 countries competing head-to-head across fencing, swimming, showjumping and the final discipline, which combines running and shooting.

Bob Dimond, Medway Park and 2012 sports

development manager at Medway council, is looking forward to seeing the new venue host a world-class event.

He said: "The World Cup is so good for us and it puts us ultimately to the test because it challenges all our new facilities, the quality of our staff, plus you're adding new bits."

"This site isn't designed to have horses on it permanently, but we're going to have 20 horses stabled here for the showjumping."

Britain has a good recent record in the sport, winning medals at the last three Olympic Games, including Canterbury-born Georgina Harland's bronze at Athens in 2004.

One of the team's best hopes for a strong finish will be Mhairi Spence, ranked 16 in the world. The 25-year-old is targeting a top six fin-

ish and is relishing the opportunity of a home event as part of preparations for the London Olympics in two years' time.

She said: "It's quite exciting to be going somewhere new. The venue looks very impressive and I think the location will definitely improve our chances of good crowds."

"Everything is building towards 2012. It's a chance to get used to that idea of competing on home soil. It's good practice to produce a performance under pressure, so it's great to have that opportunity."

There will also be local interest, with Rochester's James Myatt selected in the British team. The 18-year-old, who will be making his World Cup debut, used to train at the centre before moving to the high performance centre in Bath.

He said: "It'll be really good to compete there, especially in a World Cup. It'll be the toughest field I've been in, so it's exciting and a bit nerve-racking."

Howe on target as Gills put on an Easter special

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Gillingham 3

Oli 47, Howe 74, Barcham 85

Southend 0

GILLINGHAM produced an excellent display at just the right time as they beat Southend United in a crucial basement clash at Priestfield on Easter Monday.

Second-half goals from Dennis Oli, Rene Howe and Andy Barcham sealed a priceless victory, only the side's third win of 2010.

The breakthrough came two minutes after the resumption, when Curtis Weston's shot was spilled by goalkeeper Steve Mildenhall straight into Oli's path.

The Gills pushed for further goals to make the game safe and doubled their lead 17 minutes from time. Simeon Jackson, just on as a substitute, laid on a chance for Rene Howe, who converted his first goal for the club.

Nervous

Andy Barcham added a flourish to the scoreline with his third goal in four games late on.

The vital win came after Gillingham had slipped into the bottom four on Saturday with a defeat at Oldham.

With Jackson's hamstring injury not risked and Oli suspended, Chris Dickson was handed the chance to impress on his first start in more than a month.

Results on Good Friday conspired against the two teams, leaving them both perched just above the bottom four. The context appeared to affect both sets of players, who looked nervous in possession.

Gillingham had the best of a tight first-half, with Andy Barcham and Rene Howe both testing Latics stopper Dean Brill from the edge of



EASTER BREAK: Gillingham gave their hopes of League One survival a boost by beating fellow strugglers Southend

Gillingham starting XI



Subs used: Jackson (Oli, 70)

the penalty area. At the other end Lewis Guy provided the main threat, forcing one good stop from Alan Julian and having a goal ruled out for off-side.

The hosts were booed off at half-time but came out for the second-half looking sharper. They broke the deadlock on 58 minutes when the Gills gave the ball away cheaply, allowing

Oldham to break quickly with a move expertly finished by Guy.

After weathering a good spell where the home side threatened a second goal, the Gills finished the game strongly. But they struggled to carve out chances and Brill had relatively little to do.

The result left a frustrated Stimson questioning some of his players' commitment to the club's battle for League One survival.

He said: "People say there's going to be a lot of twists and turns in the table, we've just got to keep our focus. All you can do is your best. Me and the coaching staff are putting everything possible into this, are the players? Some certainly are but others you question because you work them day-in day-out."

The Gills face a daunting run-in against several sides in the promotion hunt. They begin this Saturday with a trip to rivals Millwall.

FOOTBALL



GOALS: Dean Ruddy was beaten twice while his team-mates failed to take their chances at the other end

Toothless Chatham slip to another loss

Folkestone Invicta 2 Chatham Town 0

CHATHAM Town's miserable run continued as they were unable to make the most of their chances against title hopefuls Folkestone Invicta on Easter Monday.

The performance was a marked improvement on some recent displays, but the Chats were made to pay for a fourth successive game without scoring.

Chatham's odds against high-flying Invicta were hardly helped following a 1-0 defeat at home to relegation-threatened Walton Casuals on Saturday. But the visitors worked hard to deny Folkestone space and the tactic worked well. At the other end an untried strike partnership of Jack Pallen and Bobby Dixey troubled the best defence in the division. The former should have scored on the half-hour mark, but he headed Ashley Proberts' cross over from six yards.

Invicta were given a great chance to break the deadlock when Chris Henry handled in the box nine minutes before the break. Top scorer James Everitt stepped up, but blasted over the crossbar.

The Chats should have taken the lead within seconds of the restart. Pallen's close-range header was brilliantly blocked by Invicta stopper Jack Delo.

Folkestone punished the wasted chance by taking the lead from Jimmy Jackson's corner three minutes later. Frankie Chappell rose superbly at the back post, powerfully nodding home for his sixth goal of the season.

The Chats almost snatched an equaliser when Ryan Laker's shot beat Delo but was cleared off the line by Jackson. Ten minutes from time Everitt struck with a low shot which Ruddy almost kept out, killing the game off.

The Chats play another of the title contenders when Croydon Athletic visit Maidstone Road on Saturday.

Stimson questions Dickson's dedication

FOOTBALL

CHRIS Dickson must knuckle down and work hard or risk squandering his natural talent, according to Gillingham manager Mark Stimson.

Dickson, on loan from Charlton, has been unable to get close to the impact he made in his first spell at Priestfield two seasons ago, scoring just once in six appearances.

The striker was given a chance to impress at Oldham on Saturday, but he looked disinterested at times and was taken off before the hour. Stimson was unhappy with the performance in what was a crucial game.

He said: "It's amazing, you're trying to get a contract and the one thing you should bring to the table is desire and passion to run around. If you lose the ball, so what, get it back."

"It was a massive chance for him, if you're a player you take it by the

horns. If you don't score you've created and been a nuisance, you don't get dragged off after 60 minutes."

Stimson admitted he had not been impressed with Dickson for several weeks and feels the striker has been distracted by thoughts of a move this summer. He urged the 25-year-old to work hard or face not making the most of his ability.

He said: "The first week he was excellent, came in like I thought he would and helped us get the win against Bristol Rovers, scored an early goal against Orient. But since then I think he's thought 'do I have to work hard, do I really have to do what they ask me to do every day because I don't really agree with it'."

"Everybody else does it and the players that have played consistently well this season want to do even more."

"It's something Chris has to grasp otherwise a good career could turn into a mediocre one around League Two and in the Conference."



DISTRACTED: After Chris Dickson's poor display at Oldham, Gills boss Mark Stimson had a few home truths for the striker

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Lydden Hill stages the opening round of the 2010 British Rallycross Championship

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